Class of 2025
Commencement Ceremony



Young Men's Leadership Academy

Friday, May 30, 2025 | 6 p.m.

Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center

FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Spanish translation available via livestream.
Please wear headphones.

www.fwisd.org/graduation

Principal
Rodney N. White

Assistant Principal
Diana Garcia-Allen

School Board Trustee, District 3
Quinton "Q" Phillips

Superintendent
Dr. Karen C. Molinar

Deputy Superintendent of Learning & Leading
Mohammed Choudhury

Area 2 Superintendent
Dr. Gracie Guerrero

Young Men's Leadership Academy is a Fort Worth ISD Gold Seal School of Choice.

Campus Motto
Expected to Learn; Entitled to Achieve

Campus Creed

I am a scholar of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy.

I will seek knowledge.

I will speak the truth.

I am destined for success in everything I do.

The decisions I make today will affect my tomorrow.

I am accountable to myself, my brothers, my family, and my community.

I am a scholar of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy.

We Are Our Brothers' Keepers!

Campus Mission

The mission of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy is to cultivate and empower all young men through Perseverance, Resilience, Integrity, Discipline, and Excellence by developing academic scholars for generations to come.

Brief History of YMLA

In the winter of 2009, a small group of Fort Worth ISD administrators and board members visited several single gender schools in the New York City public school district. Their mission was to gain insight about the successes and challenges of such schools and how they could be utilized in the Fort Worth ISD. After a series of public meetings, trustees voted to establish Young Men's Leadership Academy in the fall of 2012.

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Young Men's Leadership Academy (YMLA), the district's first single-gender school for boys, was launched with 6th and 7th grade students. YMLA's goal is to provide college preparatory education for young men to achieve their promise as students, as family members, and as engaged citizens.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Fort Worth ISD Graduating Class of 2025,

It is my honor to congratulate each of you for reaching this incredible milestone in your educational journey. On behalf of the entire Fort Worth ISD family, we are proud of all that you have accomplished. You worked hard to reach this momentous occasion. Enjoy your special day because you have earned it!

We worked hard to prepare you for the road ahead. You have the intelligence, strength, and courage to make an incredible impact on our world and we know that you will continue to make us just as proud as we are today.

Your accomplishments will pave the way for others, and your journey is a testament to the power of dreams. As you embark on the next chapter of your journey, remember to embrace challenges, invite change, keep learning and never lose sight of your dreams.

Class of 2025, it has been an honor to be part of your educational journey. Now, it's your turn to step into a future of limitless possibilities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen C. Molinar

Superintendent

Commencement Program

Processional . . . . . "POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE" BY EDWARD ELGAR

Presentation of Colors . . . . . Young Men's Leadership Academy JROTC

National Anthem . . . . . "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" BY FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Pledge of Allegiance . . . . . Scholar Joel Umana

Welcome . . . . . Scholar Jesus Martinez Garcia

Introduction of Platform Guests . . . . . Scholar Martin Olvera
2025 Class Treasuer

Greetings . . . . . Trustee Quinton "Q" Phillips
BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 3

Principal's Address . . . . . Rodney N. White

Tribute to Parents . . . . . Scholar Leonardo Hernandez Ramirez

Tribute to Dream Team . . . . . Scholar Ellington Holkmann
2025 CLASS VICE-PRESIDENT

YMLA History and Mission . . . . . Scholar Kemble Rigsby

Recognition of Honor Groups . . . . . Rose Jones
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Recognition of Scholarship Awards . . . . . Diana Garcia-Allen
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Video Presentation . . . . . Scholar Dilandimel Desman

Introduction of Salutatorian . . . . . Todd Koppes
AREA 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Salutatorian Address

Introduction of Valedictorian . . . . . Dr. Gracie Guerrero
AREA 2 SUPERINTENDENT

Valedictorian Address

Presentation of Candidates . . . . . Rodney N. White

Conferring of Diplomas . . . . . Dr. Karen Molinar
SUPERINTENDENT

Presentation of Graduates . . . . . Christopher Smith
TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR

Turning of the Tassel. . . . . Scholar Aaron Grimaldo
2025 CLASS PRESIDENT

Recessional . . . . . "POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE" BY EDWARD ELGAR

Cords & Stoles

Summa Cum Laude
Maize Gold

Magna Cum Laude
Silver

Cum Laude
White

Student Council
Green

Band
Rose

ROTC
Red/White/Blue

UT OnRamps
Orange/White

Internships
Silver/Blue

Journalism
Red

AVID
Blue/Gold

Art Honor Society
Multicolor

Scan the QR code below to view the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Latin Honors graduates.

fwisd.org/HonorGrads

DISCLAIMER: The student speakers were selected based on neutral criteria to deliver messages of the students' own choice. The content of each student speaker's message is the private expression of the individual student and does not reflect any position or expression of the FWISD, the board of trustees, the district's administration, employees of the district, or the views of any other graduate.

Candidates for Graduation

Dominique LaRoy Baker
Nickey Mitchell Brady, Jr.
Brennan Daniel Carney
Tony Dewayne Dangerfield, Jr.
Zachariyah James Dehorney
Dilandimel Desman
Andrew Mario Dominguez
John Anthony Giron Osorio
Aaron Isaiah Grimaldo
De'Von Jeremiah Hall
Leonardo Hernandez Ramirez
Judah Ishmael Herring
Ellington Elijah-Mandel Holkmann
Kamran Islam Kenerly
Victor Ugo Leon Gonzalez
Caleb Elijah Lugo
Jairo Macias
Jesus Ramon Martinez Garcia, Jr.
Jayden George Meza
Ileyas Mohammad Asif
Christopher Niehay
Martin Olvera, Jr.
Isaac Paulino
Christian Pena
Kemble Douglas Rigsby
Nicholas Courtney Roberts
Langston Louis Tate
Joel Neftaly Umana
Isaiah Elijah Vasquez
Kenneth Ray Walker

Senior Class Officers

PRESIDENT
Aaron Grimaldo

VICE PRESIDENT
Ellington Holkmann

SECRETARY
Christopher Neihay

TREASURER
Martin Olvera

SENIOR CLASS SPONSORS
Cynthia Boone
Dr. Carol Miles
William Parker
Melissa Schulman
Angel Smith

CLASS MOTTO
We're on top.
We can't be stopped.

CLASS COLOR
Black

CLASS SONG
"Life is a Highway"
by Rascal Flatts

National Honor Society

PRESIDENT
Chris Neihay

VICE PRESIDENT
Dilandimel Desman

SPONSORS
Brenda Carter
Dr. Carol Miles
LTC(R) John Murphy
William Parker
Angel Smith

TCU Community Scholars

Dilandimel Desman
Christopher Neihay

AVID

Langston Tate

YMLA Community Advisory Board

BOARD PRESIDENT
Roy Charles Brooks

Katrina Carpenter
Walter Dansby
Rev. Ralph W. Emerson, Jr.
Pete Geren
Chad Kerr
Dr. Sean Madison
Stacy Marshall
Roderick F. Miles, Jr.
Charlie Powell
Ty Stimpson
Jeremy Smith
Dr. Carlos Walker
Patrick Winfield

Faculty & Staff

PRINCIPAL
Rodney N. White

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Diana Garcia-Allen

HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
Rose Jones

MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELOR
Amber Reed

TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR
Christopher Smith

POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS SPECIALIST
Dr. Carol Miles

LIBRARIAN
Brandi Bobo

NURSE
Anthonia Brass-Akinyemi

FWAS COORDINATOR
Mark Carter

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE
Teresa Acevedo

HEAD CUSTODIAN
Kenneth Green

CAFETERIA MANAGER
Yolanda Davis

DATA CLERK
Esmeralda Favela-Escamilla

PARENT LIASON
Cynthia Starks

FACULTY
Cynthia Boone
Albert Canales
Malinee Carnegie
Carwanda Chopp
Dr. Toni Edwards-Joubert
Stephanie Faulkner
Essence Flowers
Krista Harris-Franklin
Joseph Heath
Angela Hernandez
Denisecia Lee
Hosea Lee
Karl Lee
Crystal Loveless
Dr. Shawn Massey
Tobie Moser
LTC(R) John Murphy
Carletha Neal
CSM Anthony Oliver
William Parker
Thomas Prince
Norman Rangel
Bethany Saba
Porsche Sanders
Erwin Santiago
Jareeshia Shelby
Melissa Schulman
Angel Smith
Isaac Tate
AT1 Harold Todd
Alan Whitaker