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*To inspire each student to
extraordinary achievement
every day*

May 1, 2026

To Staff and Our Twin Rivers Families,

Every Twin Rivers Unified graduating class leaves behind a story, but the story of the Class of 2026 is one defined by perseverance, growth, and quiet determination.

This year, more than 1,500 students are preparing for graduation ([view schedule](#)), each carrying their own chapter of that story. Among them are 28 seniors who took an especially ambitious path, earning associate degrees from American River College (ARC) through the district's Dual Enrollment program—the largest group of Dual Enrollment graduates in a single year for the district. Beginning as early as their freshman year, these students committed to college-level coursework and sustained that effort for four years. Their journeys stretched beyond the typical high school experience, revealing the true depth of their potential.

At Rio Linda High, 10 students reached that milestone. At Foothill, nine students. Grant Union High has six, alongside two from CCAA, and one from Highlands. Together, they represent a group of students who chose to step into college-level work early and stayed the course. In an extraordinary accomplishment, two students—Taylor Blood (FHS) and Brodii Richardson (RLHS)—will each receive three degrees from ARC.

Programs like Dual Enrollment do more than offer college credit; they shift how students perceive their own capabilities. For many students, it meant learning how to balance it all: high school and college coursework, responsibilities at home, and the pressure of trying something new. Moments of doubt, long nights, and competing priorities became part of the process, and part of their growth. Of course, they didn't do it alone. Behind every success is a dedicated network of teachers, counselors, and families who encouraged them, challenged them, and helped make the Dual Enrollment path possible.

And this is only one part of the Class of 2026's story. Their achievements also include academic excellence at the highest level, reflected in this year's valedictorians and salutatorians.

TR Proud Valedictorians and Salutatorians

- **CCAA** - Madeline Cruz Estrada, Valedictorian, and Ashley Martin, Salutatorian
- **Foothill** – Tahira Slayman, Valedictorian, and Elena Palomares, Valedictorian
- **Grant** – Victoria Martinez, Valedictorian, and Julio Lara, Salutatorian
- **Highlands** – Diana Romanskyy, Valedictorian, and Aidan Lupo, Salutatorian
- **Keema** – Kamaljot Kaur, Valedictorian, and Jazmin Garcia Zermeno, Salutatorian
- **Pacific** – Andrea Pascual Mauricio, Valedictorian, and Luis Lopez, Salutatorian
- **Rio Linda** – Oliver Lopez Avalos, Valedictorian, and Leonardo Lor, Salutatorian
- **Vista Nueva** – Gabriela Flores, Valedictorian, and Jayden Grandison, Salutatorian

TR Proud Dual Enrollment Graduates

- **CCAA** – Logan Archer and Madeline Cruz Estrada
- **Foothill** – Taylor Blood, Samantha Zoe Derecho, Genesis Medina Cortez, Karla Oliveros Zapata, Elena Palomares, Maryam Popal, Tahira Slayman, Cassidy Tillman, and Isabelle Villalpando
- **Grant** – Giovanni Ceron, Ryan Her, Kimberly Hernandez Farfan, Julio Lara, Victoria Martinez, and Lynn Reed
- **Highlands** – Diana Romanskyy
- **Rio Linda** – Jasleen Bhangu, Maria Caro Vasquez, Sherman Drawsand, Joseph Hancock, Oliver Lopez Avalos, Brodii Richardson, Kailyn Robson, George Salazar, Ayush Singh, and Sama Wahedi

More than titles or accolades, the Class of 2026 is defined by the standard they've set. As they move toward graduation, they leave behind a blueprint for students to follow—proof that determination, when matched with opportunity, changes what's possible.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Martinez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified