



Chino Valley Adult School students attend the school's first combined graduation ceremony that includes High School Diploma graduates, General Educational Diploma (GED) recipients, as well as those who have completed English as a Second Language (ESL), and Citizenship programs. The ceremony was held May 24 in the multi-purpose room of the Chino campus.

First combined graduation ceremony at Chino Valley Adult School is family affair

The feeling of family was overwhelming at the Chino Valley Adult School Graduation, held May 24 in the school's multi-purpose room in Chino.

The graduates – ranging in age from teens to seniors -- hugged each other, gave high-fives and thumbs up, and cheered wildly for their classmates. Half of the room was filled with cheering family members armed with cards, balloons and flowers.

It was the first graduation ceremony for the Adult School that combined the school's High School Diploma, General Educational Diploma (GED), English as a

Second Language (ESL), and Citizenship programs, according to Principal Carl Hampton.

The inaugural ceremony was planned after Chino Valley Adult School received its accreditation in 2016 from the Western Association of Schools or Colleges (WASC). Accreditation helps determine if an institution meets or exceeds minimum standards of quality, and it is often a factor in students obtaining admission to higher education.

One of the High School Diploma graduates had finished his required coursework and tests just an hour before the ceremony, Hampton said. Another – Jeff Gong – had the honor of leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the commencement ceremony. He had just become a citizen of the United States the day before.

In his speech to the graduates, Hampton emphasized the importance of getting an education, no matter the age or circumstance. He said his mother, one of 13 children, earned her high school diploma in her late 60s. The principal said his secretary Evelyn Caliz became a U.S. Citizen after immigrating to the United States, as did Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education member James Na who was among the dignitaries at the ceremony.

Adult School teacher Jenny Gordon, who said she has the “best job on the planet,” told how learning English had helped her students. One graduate said she could finally understand everything her English-speaking doctor said. Another realized that information on a personal identification card was incorrect. Two of Gordon’s students – one Korean and one Spanish-speaking – sat next to each other in class and now have accents like the other because they practiced speaking to each other so much in class.

Gordon said there could be one group unhappy about the graduates who have recently become proficient in English. She said the teen children of the ESL students are not always pleased that their parents can now understand everything they say.

Principal Hampton said many of the parents who enrolled in the ESL classes have told him that their primary goal was to be able to communicate better with their children’s teachers.

There are more than 20 different countries represented in the Adult School programs, school officials said.

During the ceremony, Gordon told Hampton that he “has it made” at the Adult School because the students are so dedicated and enthusiastic.

For the list of graduates and their program of completion, see the last page of this story.



Chino Valley Adult School students file past well-wishers on their way to the multi-purpose room for the graduation ceremony.



Chino Valley Adult School Principal Carl Hampton addresses the graduates. Also attending the ceremony are (from left) Chino Valley Unified School District Board of Education members Andrew Cruz, James Na, and Pamela Feix; and Deputy Superintendent Norm Enfield.



The multi-purpose room is filled with graduates, family, and friends for the graduation ceremony.



Leading the Pledge of Allegiance at the graduation ceremony is Citizenship program graduate Jeff Gong, who had just become a United States citizen the day before. Facing the American flag is Chino Valley Adult School Principal Carl Hampton.



Flowers, balloons and other decorations provided by Chino Valley Adult School staff members turn the multi-purpose room into a commencement ceremony location.



High School Diploma graduates (in caps) stand as they are recognized during the ceremony.



Norm Enfield (at podium), Deputy Superintendent for Chino Valley Unified School District, accepts that the graduates have met all course requirements for graduation.



The High School Diploma students switch their tassels from left to right in a symbolic gesture, showing that they have graduated.



Eluvina Suriano receives her Citizenship diploma from Adult School Principal Carl Hampton.

Adult School Graduates:

Citizenship

*Veronica Calderon
Carolina Castro
Armando Cervantes
Efrain Chipres
Rosaura DeLaTorre
Tania Adaena Delgado
Maria Guadalupe Garcia
Jeff Gong
Gloria Gonzales
Jorge Guape
Mo Gui Fang
Tom Man Hsiao
Grace Jui Chu LinLee
Jose Lopez
Mary Zhihui Ma
Reyna Macias
Mary Masood*

*Lucila Lopez
Patricia Moran
Ana Mora-Valverde
Gloria Olivera
Francisco Perez
Concepcion Pichardo
Taiko Reems
Maria Carmen Sanchez
Eluvina Suriano
Luz Maria Torres
Helen Trujillo
Xufang Wu
Zeng Xiaolan
Arturo Yerena
Yennie Huiyan Yu
Elsa Zepeda
Nicole Zhang*

English as a Second Language (ESL)

*Elizabeth Agundez
Evelyn Colburn
Pei Li Ding
Byron Garcia
LI Ping Guo
Corinna Chin Ling Hsu
Jiae Jang
Adriana Jimenez
Stella Law
Sean Shangyuh Lin
Jacqueline Matta
Sabine Mohamed Ali*

*Alicia Morachimo
Lon Ly Shu Qin Ou
Jing Qu
Katarina Rajkovic
Jeeyon Rhee
Esperanza Rodriguez
Ludmila Savich
Alleria Yao Shi
Rosalva Velasco
Juana Villagomez
Amy Chao Wang
Chloe Jingjing Yu*

General Educational Diploma (GED) Certificate

*Irma Arredondo
Tiree Campbell
Hunter Crowder-Hooker
Laura Howard
Ashley Cassandra Melendrez*

*Jose Alfredo Leon
Richard Martinez
Nora Murowatz
Brandon Macias*

High School Diploma

*Brianna M. Abich
Marco A. Armendariz
Rosibel Barrios Solano
Zuly Cebberos
Jacqueline Viviana Duarte
Andrew Freddy Garcia
Andrea De'Ette Higbee
Alex J. Hong
Jeremiah Shane Ito
Robert Anthony Jimenez
Eleftherios Kalemkeridis
Noah T. Lawrence
Omar Salorez Lemus
Mirna Elizabeth Linares
Melissa Martinez
Roman Martinez Vasquez
Viviana Mero
Urena, Kelsey Caitlan*

*Vincent Robert Moreno
Lily Ou
Sandi Carol Plasencia
Anthony Reyes
George Anthony Rivas
Roberto Rojas
Claudia Santellan
Chantay Silva
Caia E. Sly
Vanessa Sosa
Araceli Terriquez
Crystal Denise Valadez
Marissa Monique Valle
Maria Rosario Velasquez
Gabriel Viramontes
Jazmine Paulina Zaragoza
Lizet Zepeda*