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## Davies graduates celebrate hard work, told to find their 'root people'

By ISABELLA LAPRIORE Valley Breeze Intern  
Jun 13, 2024

1 of 4



Davies graduate **Aavin Anderson** looks ahead to what's next at last Friday's commencement ceremonies.  
Breeze photo by Isabella Lapriore

LINCOLN – Students and families from Davies Career and Technical High School celebrated their important milestone with plenty of hugs and tears.

Following a welcome from Associate Director Jose Libano, physical education/health teacher and football coach Henry Cabral took to the stage at last Friday evening's commencement ceremonies at the Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket to address the class and their guests.

Cabral thanked the graduating class for the memories and good times made over the past four years. He compared the people they'll come across in life to three parts of a tree, advising his students and players to find the "root people" in their lives.

"Like the roots of a tree they are hard to find because they are not trying to be seen," Cabral said. "Their only job is to hold you up and help you be strong and live a great life.

Reflecting on his 25 years at Davies, Cabral said he hopes he had a similar impact on those he taught and coached.

Valedictorian Ryan DeLeon Aguilar thanked his parents for their unwavering support, hard work and dedication when celebrating his accomplishments, no matter how big or small. He recognized his friends for their support as well, specifically with his mental health and gaining confidence.

The New England Institute of Technology's Running Start program that he was a part of his senior year at Davies, he said, changed his perspective on higher education completely.

"I'm glad I chose this path because when everyone else starts college, I'll be finishing my nursing courses and getting my nursing license," he said. "Even though it was, I'd say 10 times harder than Davies, the hard work is gonna pay off."

The valedictorian urged his fellow graduates to live in the present, stay positive and enjoy the small things in life.

"Even though things are difficult, I can see us all succeeding in life. With hard work, positive thought, and determination, we can achieve anything," DeLeon Aguilar said.

Salutatorian Brianna Garcia shared a similar sentiment, thanking her family, friends and teachers.

As with DeLeon Aguilar, Garcia said her experience at Davies was unique. Coming from a strong music and arts-focused background, she said studying at a technical high school challenged her, making her have to work twice as hard to pursue her passion.

A non-traditional high school experience, she said, doesn't mean limited success.

"As long as you put in the work, everything will fall into place, even in the most unexpected ways," Garcia said.

Class President Naydelin Ruiz said despite the impact of the pandemic, thanks to her classmates, class officers and class adviser Kristin SanBento, her class found positive outcomes among negative ones.

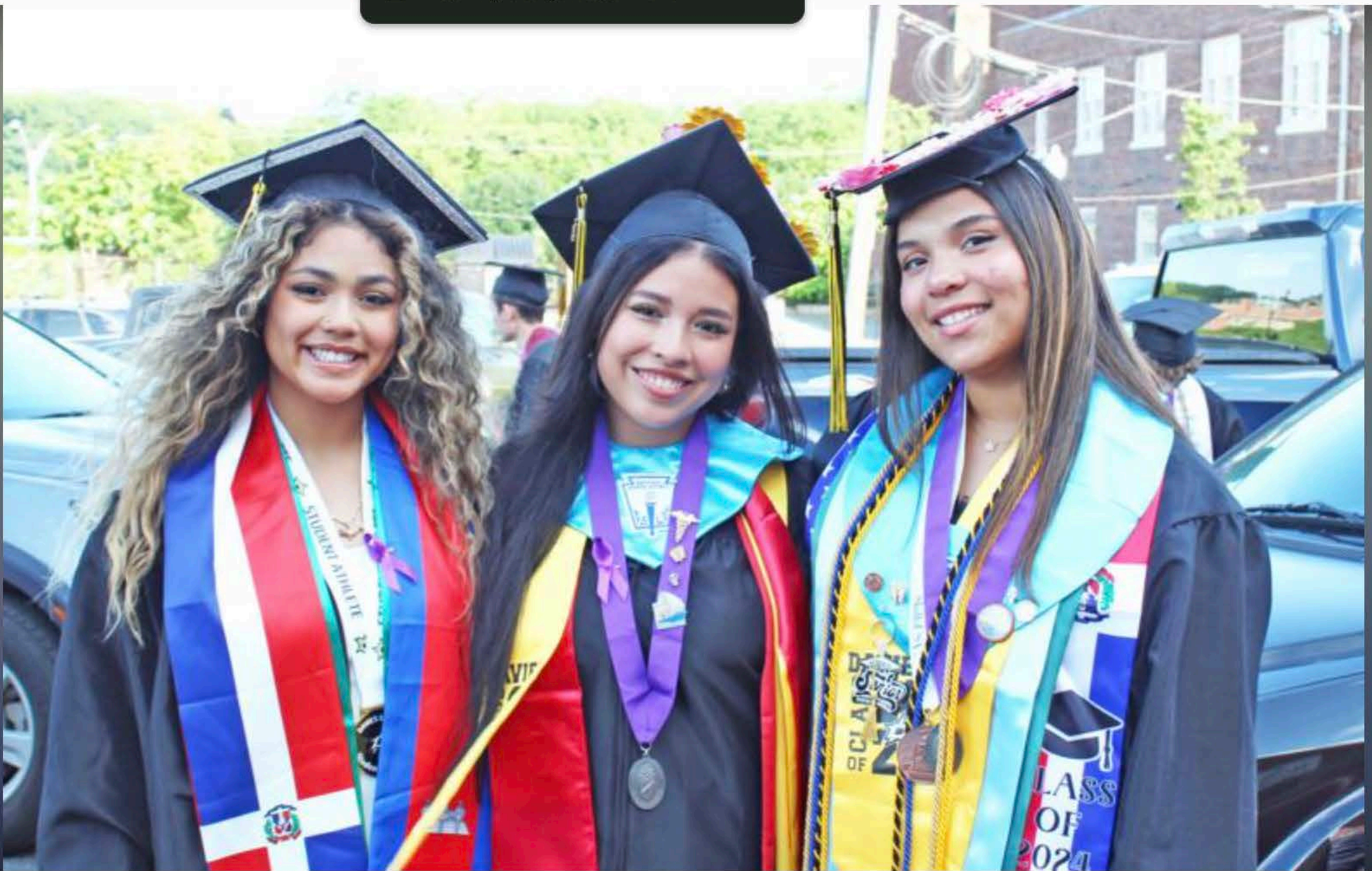
"As fun as being class president was, there was a lot that came with it, and I wouldn't have been able to do it all without our class adviser and officers," said Ruiz.

When asked how she did in her position, the Class of 2024 erupted in cheers of support for Ruiz.

Davies school counselor Amie Mello and SanBento wished the graduates best of luck in their future endeavors, congratulating them on their achievement, and advising them to keep working hard.

After the presentation of diplomas and reading of the names of graduates by Libano and Director Mary Watkins, Watkins closed the ceremony by asking one last thing of the class of 2024:

"I have one request ... that you find ways to pay it forward to others," said Watkins, "both with your time and your resources."



Davies students, from left, **Charlize Liranzo**, **Krystal Cuello** and **Jadrianny Baez-Estevez** were all smiles at last Friday's graduation.

Breeze photo by Isabella Lapriore

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William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School Class of 2024 class president **Naydelin Ruiz** speaks at graduation Friday night at The Stadium Theatre in Woonsocket.

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Breeze photos by Isabella Lapriore



Davies graduates **Caesar Coteron** and **Debra Groves** show off their diplomas at graduation.

Breeze photo by Isabella Lapriore

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# **William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School Class of 2024**

Jun 12, 2024

Breanna A. Abac

Kenia Acosta

Agifatou F. Aidara

Cheikh K. Aidara

Emely S. Alcantara

Derek A. Alves

Aavin A. Anderson

Christian Archbold

Jacqueline N. Arevalo

Steven A. Arevalo

Jadrianny Baez-Estevez

Gabriella P. Banker

Alannah A. Barcelos

Ezequiel Barrera

Evan D. Bennett

Ryan K. Bernard

Eli O. Berthiaume

Carissah M. Bizzle

Jayce Boisse

Karl J. Bornelus

Lauren A. Bradshaw

Joslyn M. Brown

Zaria-Lynn C. Campbell

Caterin J. Cante

River A. Carnaghan

Firenzia N. Chace

Katie Chamberlin

Sara A. Chiaverini

Victoria G. Chica

Amber M. Church

Ny-Elize L. Cintron

Steven S. Clinton

Ederickson C. Coelho Ramos

Xavier A. Collins-Mena

Aidan M. Comire

Evan C. Cooke

Ozirin R. Corporan

Jeilyn A. Cortez

Aiden J. Cote

Caesar I. Coteron

Fatoumata Coulibaly

Harych Cruz

Luis Cruz

Krystal Y. Cuello

Dante J. D'Amico

Julieth D. Dacruz

Grazielle L. Dagraca

Samuel F. Davis

Ryan J. DeLeon Aguilar

Jack C. Delgado

Jarrel Depina

Lauricia S. Depina

Nathan A. Desimone

Aissatou Diakite

Aiyanna M. Dias

Cristel P. Diaz



Gabriel E. Diaz

Aliyah C. Donahue

Darion A. Dos Santos

Austin Dowicki

Jacob S. Durocher

Haizelynn Echevarria

Yasmin G. Elias

Justin M. Emond

Kelsy M. Espinal-Perez

Jayden A. Evora

David O. Falowo

Samaira L. Farmer

Diego Ferreira

Jessica R. Flores Benitez

Sebastian A. Forero

Jayden D. Fortes

Nayara A. Freitas

Brian R. Garcia

Brianna Garcia

Gyanna Y. Garcia

Maiah E. Garcia

Ariana Y. Gomes

Elton Gomes

Madlen G. Gomes-DePina

Marlin Y. Gomez Jimenez

Debra L. Groves

Samantha A. Grullon

Jasmine Guevara

Madison G. Guindon

Christopher S. Harding JR

John D. Harvey JR

Nataisjaa M. Hazard

Vivian T. Henriquez

Elvis J. Hernandez

Sara E. Hunt

Rachel A. Jean-Baptiste

Javon A. Jesus

Mia G. Joseph

Paris M. Koule

Ian S. Leon Guerrero

Charlize M. Liranzo

Cristiano Lobo

Lizzeth A. Lopera

Diana C. Lopez

Sandra S. Louis

Angela G. Mallywanga

Destiny Marrero

Yazmin Martinez

Sheilyn Y. Matus

Ahmadu M. Mbaye

Fatima K. Mbaye

Anthony J. McGowan

Vasco P. Medeiros

Daniela J. Medrano

Jessica P. Mendez

Veronica N. Mendez

Victoria I. Milian Morales

Navielys M. Miranda

Bridget M. Moats

Jessiah A. Monchery

Briana P. Monteiro

Joaquim L. Monteiro

Antonio Montoya

Daniela Montoya

Jaideliz Morales

Ethan Moreno

Adacelys H. Nichols

Sharon B. Oule

Elijah A. Parker

Yuliana N. Perez

Johann Perez-Medina

Elizabeth Piedra

Kiara-Lynn H. Pinto

Pedro F. Ponceano

Daniel E. Ramirez

Janessa S. Ramos

Sianie K. Ramos

Eliza D. Reed

Karina Restrepo

Matthew S. Restrepo

Coby S. Reynolds

Matthew Rivera Cruz

Austin J. Robert

Aalyah B. Rodriguez

Ashline M. Rodriguez

Gabriela A. Rodriguez

Alexis X. Romero Alvarado

Brianna A. Rosado

Daniel E. Rose

Naydelin D. Ruiz

David A. Salako

Sergio A. Salguero

Lariah L. Sampaio

Alessandro Sanchez

German Sanchez

Jamin D. Santos

Kila R. Santos

Mariana V. Santos

Paula J. Santos Hernandez

Niko F. Saunders

Eric A. Schenck

Joseph C. Serpa

Eve E. Silva

Siyanna S. Teap

Anthony J. Thibeault

Elizabeth F. Tobon

Jaslenn K. Torres

Nakeisha S. Torres

Relena S. Trudel

Doyinsola D. Umarudeen

Balesca Urzua

Iriana A. Valle

Anthony Varela

Gabriel J. Vargas

Alexandra M. Vasquez

Andrew W. Vasquez

Casanova K. Vasquez

Milagros N. Velez

Cindy C. Ventura

Mia K. Victorino

Eduardo Villasenor

Kurtis J. Waters

Alexis S. Watson

Jameson L. Whitley