

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
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From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

Salute to the Class of 2019

Graduation season is one of my favorite times of the year! I salute the Class of 2019 for achieving this momentous milestone. It doesn't matter if you are graduation from Pre-K, high school, trade school, college, or earning your doctorate. I am happy to see people achieving goals and advancing in life.

I want to give a special commendation to our 17th Annual Entergy-City of Monroe Community Service Scholarship recipients: Jaevyenne Williams-Taylor and Jhamar Forbes (Carroll HS); Garrett Austin (River Oaks HS); Kelsy Cross and Zachary Shaw (St. Frederick HS); Taylor Moore and Jaylen Barnes (Wossman HS); Bradly Surles and Zachary Hogan (Ouachita Christian School); and, Taylor Mitchell and Robert Landry (Neville HS).

After competing through an application process this spring, they were all selected by their high school administrators. Our Class of 2019 has an average GPA of 3.4 and an average ACT score of 24. In addition to excelling in the classroom, they all performed multiple acts of community service. Each of these talented and motivated graduating seniors are attending a Louisiana college or university.

Kofi Annan, a diplomat from Ghana and 2001 Nobel Peace Prize recipient who served as the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations, once said, “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

I want all our graduates to remember that knowledge is the key that opens the door to all possibilities. Never stop learning. Soak up information. Find good mentors. Don't be afraid to fail. Keep trying and you will get it. Be willing to step outside of your comfort zone. Take chances that will lead to opportunities. Take advantage of opportunities that will advance you academically, personally and professionally. Once you make it, reach back and show someone else how to get it done.

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!