



**County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

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PRESS RELEASE

**Foster Youth Who Exemplify Success are Stars of the Night at the
'Celebration 2009' Graduation Ceremony on Thursday, June 4th**

More than 140 young adults will take center stage to celebrate their success on Thursday, June 4, 2009, as part of the 20th annual "Celebration 2009: Honoring the Academic Achievements of Foster Youth." The event will begin at 7 p.m. at Walt Disney Concert Hall, located at 111 South Grand Avenue in Downtown Los Angeles. Keynote speakers include Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Don Knabe.

Hundred of friends, foster parents and family members will watch as the youth proudly march across the stage to honor this milestone in their lives -- an occasion marked by academic accomplishment and triumph over adversity. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Director Patricia S. Ploehn and the Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer Robert Taylor are among the invited guests.

As part of the "Celebration 2009" graduation ceremony, thousands of dollars in scholarships will be presented to the youth by a variety of corporations and non-profit organizations. Donors include United Friends of the Children (UFC), The Teague Family Foundation, DCFS, the County of Los Angeles Probation Department, KLOS, Rising Stars, CARRY, TCCF/Wells Fargo, the Ralph Hauser III Foundation, Accenture, The Heads Up Youth Foundation, UPS, All Saints Church and the Rotary Club of L.A. Every graduate receives a new business suit for college and business interviews, and the girls have their make-up done by top celebrity stylists who donate their time and skills for the event.

"Celebration 2009," is a collaborative effort involving DCFS; the County of Los Angeles Probation Department; UFC, a non-profit organization that provides the direct and in-depth services that make it possible for foster youth to become self-sustaining adults; The Teague Family Foundation; the Community College Foundation; and Casey Family Programs.

All of the young adults taking center stage on June 4th have demonstrated strong character and perseverance in overcoming past obstacles to graduate from high school with honors, strong grade point averages and acceptance at prestigious universities, colleges and vocational schools.

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"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"