

Schools of Thought

Newsletter of the Huntington School District

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Class of 2002 Graduates

Strains of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance No. 1" filled the air at Blue Devils Stadium as 210 seniors finally reached the end of a long road, receiving diplomas at the 141st Huntington High School Commencement Exercises.

The graduates were in a reflective, and celebratory, mood. Student speakers congratulated their classmates in a series of speeches and recognized in touching tributes those who weren't present.

Dan Ellman, the class valedictorian who is headed to Dartmouth, said that when he looked back over his high school years, friendship always seemed to be front and center. "I believe the time we've spent with those we care about is even more valuable than the time we've spent in the classroom," he said.

Senior class president **Meghan Turner**, who will study business at Quinnipiac and play lacrosse on a scholarship, said she sees great things ahead for the Class of 2002. "In our midst, I see the first female president, she said. "I see a professional athlete and a renowned humanitarian. There is a Hollywood actress and a Nobel Prize winning mathematician among us. We have more than potential. We have drive!"

School Board President **Robert T. Lee** noted, "Our future depends on teachers" and urged graduates to consider a career in teaching, perhaps even returning to Huntington.

The graduates received nearly \$5 million in scholarships for college and vocational school study. Of the graduates, nearly 200 will be continuing on to either two or four year schools with the rest headed to the military, vocational and technical schools or immediately into the full-time work force.

Salutatorian **Bryan Prior**, who will attend Tufts, spoke of many things, including independence. "We can follow the light that society and our parents have set for us, but we must eventually find our own light." He implored fellow graduates to reject the "quick fix" and instead "work hard for an accomplishment" a path which ultimately will prove more rewarding.

Mr. Prior was clearly in a philosophical mood, asking the graduates, "Will we take the easy way out and complain at the things that get in our way? Or will we try and make a difference in this world and laugh at the hindrances along our path?"

Student council president **Susan Robey** had the joy of graduating alongside twin brother Scott. Ms. Robey, who will attend Virginia Tech in the fall and possibly study pre-med, spoke about a senior year filled with "loss, hardship and tragedy, which has touched every one of us."

Ms. Robey said the graduates have "emerged from these trials with a greater strength of character and a very important life lesson. We must not forget how quickly our lives can change. It can happen in an instant, without warning, while doing something we normally would. Our lives can be completely rearranged in the blink of an eye."

The new graduates continue the unbroken line dating to 1862 when Charles H. Baldwin, Ella J. Conlin, Emma F. Downs, James T. McKay, William G. Nicoll and John S. Sherill received the first diplomas issued by Huntington.

"In our midst, I see the first female president. I see a professional athlete and a renowned humanitarian. There is a Hollywood actress and a Nobel Prize winning mathematician among us. We have more than potential. We have drive!"

Meghan Turner
Senior Class President

Good Luck Graduates

Daniel Ellman Gives Stirring Valedictory Address at 141st Commencement Exercises

Dan Ellman not only pushed himself, his work ethic and drive for excellence inspired classmates who tried to outdo him. They may have tried, but they didn't succeed. After all, who could top his 108 grade point average?

Mr. Ellman was Huntington's Class of 2002 valedictorian, but he wasn't all study and no play. The Dartmouth bound graduate starred on and captained three athletic teams, helping to lead the soccer team to its first playoff appearance in years and contributing to the first Blue Devil Suffolk tennis team title since 1987.

"He is brilliant," said college counselor **Karen Schlendorf**. "He brings his entire class to a higher level of understanding of the most complex material. He pushes and prods, seeking to go beyond what the teacher has in mind for the lesson and yet teacher and students alike praise him for this effort."

"His peers have enormous respect for Dan," Ms. Schlendorf offered. Mr. Ellman kept his valedictory address short and to the point, focusing on friendships, which were at the center of his memories of Huntington High School. He said that the time graduates spent with those they care about, has been more valuable than time spent in classrooms. "For, although it may seem like a cliché, this is when we've truly learned who we are."

Mr. Ellman said the time shared with friends has, in many ways, been educational.

"Each of us has been a teacher and each a pupil. We've studied the science of socializing, the language of loyalty and the qualities, which add up to being a good friend," he said.

He is the leader of the top academic students "not just because he has the highest grades, but also because he sets the standard of learning," Ms. Schlendorf said. "For Dan, grades are secondary to the learning experience and learning for its own sake is his passion."

He won all league honors in basketball and tennis and was named to the academic all-county team, and he served as the senior class treasurer and as a peer mediator and mentor. Mr. Ellman was one of a select group of Long Island high school student-athletes named Citibank/News 12 Scholar Athletes, and was featured on television this past spring.

Bryan Prior Graduates As Huntington's 2002 Salutatorian

Bryan Prior stood front and center after years of hard work and high academic achievement, giving the salutatorian address at the graduation ceremony at Huntington High School.

Mr. Prior's determination, endurance and consistent performance are what led him to the microphone and gained him acceptance to Tufts University for the fall semester. "Bryan is an intense student, possessing a drive to be the best at whatever he is doing," college counselor **Karen Schlendorf** said.

Outside the classroom, he doesn't just sit around; he's in constant motion, from tutoring fellow classmates to writing for Huntington's literary magazine, Etcetera. He has sailed competitively all around the world and was named Top Junior Double-handed Skipper in North America in 1999.

"I look in front of me, although we're setting off on our own ways, none of us can ever really leave Huntington," Mr. Prior said in his address at the commencement. "It is a past that is a part of us. Memories and experiences that we can't forget about or let go of. Just like a tree can't shed its inner rings, human's can't shed their past."

Mr. Prior won recognition as an **Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors**, following years of taking the most challenging academic courses. "He is an excellent student, and exemplary role model, a respected member of his class and a very confident young man," Ms. Schlendorf remarked.



Top Students: Salutatorian Bryan Prior (left) and valedictorian Daniel Ellman gave keynote addresses at the commencement exercises for 210 students.

Huntington High School 2002 Graduation Briefs

Student council president **Susan Robey** quoted Mark Twain in her remarks to classmates. "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the things that you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Ms. Robey, who was a member of the National Honor Society, and the Tri M Music and Foreign Language Honor Societies, agreed with Twain, saying "This is my hope for all of us: That we may look back on our many journeys and smile for we have accomplished great things. Best of luck in all of your explorations, dreams and discoveries. Now let's get out of here."

* * *

The Class of 2002 includes dozens of student-athletes who will continue the pursuit of their athletic goals in every possible sport at the college level. Many students received athletic scholarships. Others say they will participate in intramural sports.

* * *

Senior class president **Meghan Turner** announced a number of gifts to the school from the Class of 2002, including a Blue Devil banner, a flag commemorating the 9/11 terrorist attacks and a check to fund the refurbishment of a row of chairs in the high school auditorium in honor of classmate **Ryan Kelly**, who was killed in a winter car accident.

The 9/11 flag is a poignant tribute to a terrible event that occurred at the start of the senior's final year at Huntington High School. Six alumni died in the attacks, including **Susan Clyne-Dietrich** ('77), **Dennis Edwards** ('84), **Michele Titolo** ('85), **Michael McCarthy** ('87), **Joseph Anchundia** ('93) and **Judson Cavalier** ('93).

* * *

Ms. Turner flawlessly spoke about what she and her fellow graduates had learned in high school, and what the future might hold. "Our experiences at Huntington High School have taught us valuable lessons and are our link to the past and more importantly, the keys to our future," she said.

"Whether the paths we now choose lead us to a career as a life-saving doctor, a skilled carpenter, a guiding teacher, a caring social worker, a trusty mechanic or a brilliant researcher, we all have the potential to become something extraordinary within ourselves. Every single member of this graduating

class has great potential. As we begin a new phase in our lives, our possibilities are endless," Ms. Turner said.

"It's now up to each of us to take that potential and make a difference. Underneath these goofy caps are the talents, dreams, ambitions and hopes that will raise families, build communities and change lives. Where we will be in ten of fifteen years remains a mystery. But no matter where it is, the experiences we shared and lessons we learned over the years will forever bond us as the Class of 2002," Ms. Turner added.

* * *

Salutatorian **Bryan Prior** acknowledged, in an address to students, the reality of technology in our lives but lamented some of its consequences. "With our lives more dependent on technology, home entertainment such as television, computers and video games has provided our generation with the need to be constantly entertained," he said.

"There are thousands of Hollywood movies that make millions (of dollars) by providing entertainment that is flashy, trendy, and quick to please. It is rare to find a film that actually makes you think and work to your enjoyment of the movie. Entertainment has made a move in our lives toward a cheap fix to everything," Mr. Prior said.

* * *

Seniors **Matthew Shineman** and **Victoria Huston-Elm** together sang the national anthem at the start of the commencement. Shineman is headed to Boston College while Huston-Elm is bound for Syracuse University. Both students excelled in music and drama at Huntington High School and the pair starred in the spring production "Imagine Oz", which combined the Wizard of Oz story with the music of John Lennon and The Beatles.



Huntington High School 2002 Graduation Briefs

About 18% of the graduating class will move on to study at two year or community colleges. Of these students, 90% said they plan to pursue a bachelor's degree at a four-year college in the future, according to college counselor **Karen Schlendorf**.

* * *

The "voice" of Huntington High School, **Matthew Mirett**, graduated with the Class of 2002. Mirett, a member of the National Honor Society, as well as the Math and Foreign Language Honor Societies, is headed to the University of Pennsylvania. He read the morning announcements each day over the school's public address system.

"Given the opportunity to do the announcements, I looked forward to reporting to the principal's office every morning to read team victories, college acceptances, and individual scholarships and honors," Mr. Mirett told the commencement crowd. "The names I read were my friends and classmates who were successful both academically and socially while proudly representing the 'Big Blue'."

* * *

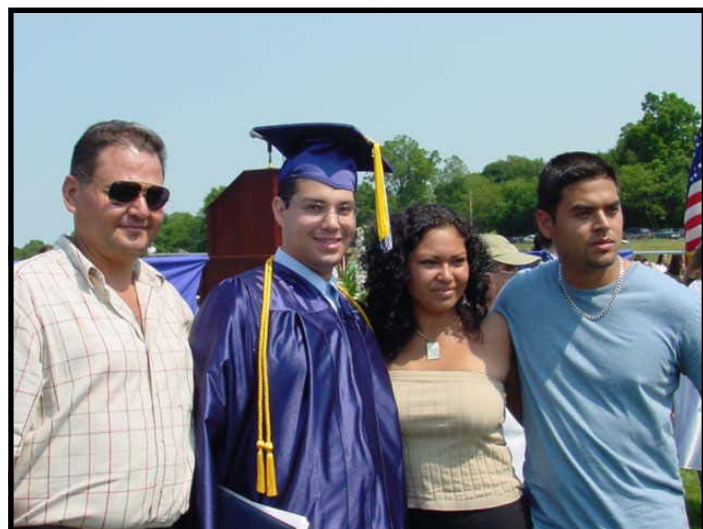
Alez Ferzan said he isn't about to forget classmate **Ryan Kelly**. "I hope that in future years Ryan continues to help us through our lives, day by day, showing signs that he's around," Mr. Ferzan said. "His spirit is among all of us here and whether we can see him or not, he still wants his ticket out of this school. As I leave this podium, please keep one thing in mind: Today, Ryan graduates with us."

Huntington History . . .

At the 50th Huntington High School commencement at 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, June 20, 1911, **Leroy Randle Grumman** gave a salutatory address titled "The Aeroplane" to his classmates in Assembly Hall of the new high school building (now the current town hall). Mr. Grumman would go on to become, arguably, Huntington's most famous graduate, founding the Grumman Aircraft Company that would later play a key role in building planes during World War II and creating the Lunar Escape Module, integral to the program that allowed man to walk on the moon.



Singing Duo: The 2002 graduation saw **Matt Shineman** and **Victoria Huston-Elem** sing the national anthem to open the ceremonies. Mr. Shineman is headed to Boston College and Ms. Huston Elem will attend Syracuse University in the fall.



A Leader: After serving as master of ceremonies at the commencement, **Angel Ramirez** received congratulations from family members. He will study industrial labor relations at Cornell University this

It's a Fact . . .

About 95% of the Class of 2002 will pursue college study this fall. Seven students will serve in the United States Army, Marines and Navy and others will move into the full-time employment force or the Job Corps program.

Many thanks to all the local businesses and individuals who contributed to our school district clubs, teams and organizations this past school year!!!

Huntington College Center Hits a Grand Slam in 2002

With nearly 200 new graduates heading off to either two or four year colleges and still more going to vocational or technical schools, the Huntington High School college center hit a homerun this year.

Staffed by college counselor **Karen Schlendorf** and aide, **Kathy Leonard**, the college center was extremely busy assisting members of the senior class as they made decisions about their future. "The students participated in workshops on interviewing skills, essay writing and preparing a successful application," Ms. Schlendorf said.

Students also met extensively with Ms. Schlendorf and submitted a record number of applications. When acceptances started rolling in there were wide smiles on the faces of most students.

A sampling of the excellent colleges Huntington students have been accepted into for the fall semester includes Boston University, Boston College, Dartmouth, Duke, Lafayette, Middlebury, Fordham, Trinity, SUNY Albany, Binghamton and Stony Brook, Columbia, Rensselaer, Occidental, Sacred Heart, Sienna, Bates, Virginia Tech, Queens College Honors Program, American, University of Illinois, University of Pennsylvania, Albright, Syracuse, Cornell, Penn State, James Madison, University of Maryland and the University of Delaware, among others.

The college center, located in room 120 of Huntington High School, contains college catalogs, files filled with applications, college guides, computer programs for interest inventories, college searches, test preparation and financial aid and scholarship searches.

"We also have several computers with Internet access that the students can use to learn about colleges, communicate with college admissions offices or submit on-line applications," Ms. Schlendorf said.

"The students may also use the college office to meet with college representatives or coaches to discuss their future," added Ms. Schlendorf.

For information about and assistance in navigating through the college decision and application process, call the college counseling office at 673-2131 when school resumes in September.

Huntington College Center: Ready to Help



Presidential Words: Soon she will be off to study at Virginia Tech, but first student council president **Susan Robey** shared some words of wisdom with her fellow graduates. She had the pleasure of graduating alongside twin brother **Scott Robey**. Ms. Robey is considering pre-med study.



A Thinker: Soon he will leave Huntington for Columbia University, but first **Alexander Palmer** took time to ponder the many speeches at the commencement exercises. Mr. Palmer, who won a National Achievement Scholarship, will study political science and is considering a future that might include law school.

2002 Advanced Placement Scholars

Sophia D'Addio, Daniel Ellman, Murad Khan, Jonathan Kirchner, Matthew Mirett, Steven Porto, Todd Whitehead and Andrew Won



Well Done: Congratulations are in order for **Dan Ellman** and **Meghan Turner** on a job well done. Mr. Ellman is headed to Dartmouth while Ms. Turner will attend Quinnipiac in the fall.



The Graduate: After four years of excellence, **Matt Shineman** received congratulations from his parents, Paul and Kim, after the ceremonies ended. Mr. Shineman is an accomplished actor, musician and singer. He will head off to Boston College.

With a donation of \$130, you can become a Huntington Schools Patron of the Arts. Your tax deductible gift will be used to completely refurbish one of the 1850 audience seats in the high school auditorium.

In appreciation and recognition of your donation, a brass plaque will be placed on your refurbished chair, including an inscription of your choosing. Call the music office at 673-2106 for more information or to arrange a contribution.

Science Research Mentors Needed . . .

The Huntington High School science research program is on the move and teacher **Marguerite Montefusco** has put out the call for community volunteers with scientific backgrounds to become mentors for students enrolled in the program.

A student will be required to enter a completed project in at least one of the various local, state and national science competitions. Students are encouraged to continue with their research through 12th grade.

Mentors can be involved in as much or as little as they choose, by telephone conferencing, consulting, e-mail, or just by serving as a source of information or as a sounding board.

If you have scientific expertise, or a background in some area of science, and are interested in mentoring a student, please call Mrs. Montefusco at 673-2078 or e-mail her at Monteach@hotmail.com.

2002 Recipients of Regent's Diplomas with Honors

Kevin Bell, Elizabeth Best, Kristin Brown, John Cornwell, Sophia D'Addio, Victoria Huston-Elem, Murad Khan, Jonathan Kirchner, Mark Levy, Aaron Machtay, Amy Shoenwald, Kasia Sosnow, Lillian Stockell, Jaime Taylor, Meghan Turner, Todd Whitehead, Andrew Won, Andy Yeh, Thomas Diaz, Melissa Eggleston, Daniel Ellman, Christina Ferrari, Christina Guido, Emily Mintz, Matthew Mirett, Benjamin Mohlenhoff, Alexander Palmer, Ivy Ponturo, Steven Porto, Bryan Prior, Angel Ramirez, Alyssa Richman, Susan Robey and Jenny Studenroth

Attention Athletes . . .

Huntington sponsors 68 teams for students in grades 7-12. To be eligible for participation, students must have a current physical examination on file in the nurse's office. Those who were not examined by the school doctor in June, need to have an exam performed by their private physician. High school football practice begins on August 20 and all other high school sports start on August 26. Teams at J. Taylor Finley Middle School kick off with the start of school on September 4. For more information call the athletic office at 673-2018.

Class of 2002 Senior Academic Awards

2002 Burger King Scholars Program Angel Ramirez
2002 CSH/Huntington Soccer Club Scholarship
 Sydney Greene, Meghan Boccard
A.L.I.V.E. Outstanding Student Scholarship
 Danielle Plummer
Aboff Memorial Prize Brandon Wilson
Alumni Cups Jennifer Bindrim, Angel Ramirez
Alumni Scholarship Benjamin Mohlenhoff
American HS Mathematics Award John Cornwell
American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Award Thomas Diaz
American Legion Citizenship Award Steven Porto and Alyssa Richman
American Legion Music Award . . Simon MacVicar and Matthew Shineman
Atlantic Wind Symphony Kimberly Lavery
Award of Merit in Art Heidi Blowers, Kristin Brown, Patrick Buckley, Ryan Courten, Alexander Ferzan, Natalie Mammone, Marissa Ohnishi, Ivy Ponturo and Sara Winterling
Bausch & Lomb Science Award Daniel Ellman
Blue Devil Band East River Savings Service Award Christina Ferrari, Alyssa Richman and Daniel Spivak
Cal Hansen Memorial Scholarship . . . Benjamin Mohlenhoff
Carmela Santorsola Provenzano Scholarship . . Thomas Diaz
Class of 2002 Spirit Award . . Christina Ferrari, Jeremy Fehrs, Eric Filardi, Kimberly Lavery, Vanessa Lewis, Jennifer Lombardo, Natalie Mammone, Christine Roman, Kasia Sosnow, Meghan Turner, Christina Wei and Todd Whitehead
Computer Graphics Award Gavin Sullivan
Cong. Steve Israel Certificate of Merit Angel Ramirez
Daughters of American Revolution . . Matthew Mirett and Susan Robey
Deborah Revell Scholarship Melissa Silvestri
Dunkin Donuts Scholarship . Margaret Getter, Desiree Kohler
Dorothea Wadell Scholarship Matthew Shineman
E.C. McGaul Award of Huntington Fire Department
 Thomas Diaz
Edna Van Wart Mathematics Award Matthew Mirett
ESL Award Rosa Alfaro
Evelyn Daniels Memorial Award Sophia D'Addio and Kasia Sosnow
Finley PTA Scholarship Meghan Boccard, Patrick Buckley, Christopher Evers, John Jahier, Caitlin Latham, Megan Lavery, Jenna Levine, Yolanda Morales, Christine Roman, Lillian Stockell, Drew Wright, and Andrew Yeh
Frances Bifulco Howley Memorial Scholarship
 Gavin Sullivan
Frank Carino Award of Huntington Fire Department
 Stephon Sair
French Award Sophia D'Addio, Matthew Mirett
Grace Gilbert Scholarship Johanna Gaspard
Greenlawn Volunteer Fire Department Scholarship
 Alyssa Richman
HARTE Scholarship Desiree Kohler
Howard Munson Award of Huntington Fire Department
 Lucas Sperl
Italian Award Christina Ferrari

James Loebell Scholarship Angel Ramirez, Andrew Won
Jane Sullivan Award Victoria Huston-Elem
Joan Jorgensen Scholarship Thomas Diaz
Joel H. & Selma D. Cohen Scholarship . . . Danielle Plummer
John Philip Sousa Award Jennifer Lombardo
Josten's Recognition Award Alyssa Richman
Kurt Schaefer Memorial Award Alexandra Hoffman
L&L Camera Photography Award Jessica Kennaugh
Linda Shoemaker Blue Devil Band Scholarship
 Jennifer Lombardo
Lions Club Scholarship Angel Ramirez
Long Island Blood Services Scholarship Allison Picozzi
Louis Armstrong Jazz Award . . Benjamin Mohlenhoff and Laura Scimeca
Marty Schnittman Memorial Scholarship . Jonathan Kirchner
National Orchestra Award . . . Angel Ramirez, Christina Wei
NYS Lottery Leaders of Tomorrow Jennifer Bindrim
Orchestra Parents Scholarship Meghan Lavery and Marissa Ohnishi
Patrick Gilmore Band Award Laura Scimeca
Principal's Award Noel Cole, Matthew Mirett
Professor Ilene Leopold Persoff Award Jeremy Fehrs
Professor Ilene Leopold Persoff Recognition Award
 Susanna-Jo Brockstedt
PTSA Scholarship Yunnely Martinez
Ralph Thompson Scholarship Kristin Brown
Reibe's Art Award of Merit Mark Boccard
Rensselaer Science Medal Matthew Mirett
Robert JR Buchanan Award Bryan Prior
Robert K. Toaz Memorial Prize Daniel Ellman
Rotary Club Scholarship Allison Picozzi
Sammis English Prize Melissa Silvestri
SCMEA Music Scholarship Vanessa Lewis
Senior Orchestra Award Eric Filardi, Max Lauer-Bader, and Alexander Palmer
SEPTA Scholarship for Excellence Christopher Edry and Gavin Sullivan
Sons of the American Revolution Daniel Ellman
Sons of Italy Music Award Matthew Shineman
Spanish Award Thomas Diaz, Yunnely Martinez
T. Christopher Pettit Award Thomas Diaz
T. Christopher Pettit Memorial Scholarship . . Mark Boccard
Technology Award Brian Jennings
Tracy Cogswell Memorial Award Noel Cole and Victoria Houston-Elem
Tri M Music Leadership Award Jennifer Lombardo
Triple C – Attorney General's Award Thomas Diaz and Melissa Eggleston
Unity Center of Healing Light Church Scholarship
 Kesia Bryan
Watkins Scholarship Vanessa Barreto
Woody Herman Jazz Award Jaime Taylor
York Iguchi Scholarship Sophia D'Addio

National Merit Finalist Jonathan Kirchner
National Achievement Scholarship . . Alexander Palmer
The McGraw-Hill Companies Scholarship
 Todd Whitehead

Class of 2002 College Acceptances

American University Bates College Bennington College Boston College Boston University
Briarcliffe College Colgate University Columbia University Cornell University Dartmouth
Dowling College Duke University Eckerd College Five Towns College Flager College Florida
Technical College Fordham University Goucher College Hampshire College Hobart University
Hofstra University Hunter College James Madison University Johnson and Wales University L.I.M.
Lafayette College LaSalle University Long Island University C.W. Post Loyola University
Manhattanville College Marist College Marshall University Maryland Institute College of Art Maui
Community College Miami Dade College Middlebury College Moravian College North Carolina
State University Nassau Community College Northeastern University New York Institute of
Technology Occidental College Old Dominion University Pace University Penn State University
Polytechnic University Purdue University Queens Honors College Quinnipiac College Rensselaer
Polytechnic Institute Rider University Sacred Heart University Salisbury State University Suffolk
Community College Skidmore College Long Island University Southampton College St. John's
University St. Joseph's College St. Leo's College SUNY Albany SUNY Binghamton SUNY
Brockport SUNY Buffalo SUNY Canton SUNY Cobleskill SUNY Cortland SUNY Delhi
SUNY Farmingdale SUNY Morrisville SUNY New Paltz SUNY Old Westbury SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oswego SUNY Potsdam SUNY Purchase SUNY Stony Brook SUNY Plattsburgh
Syracuse University Towson State University Trinity College Tufts University Union College
University of Alabama-Birmingham University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of
Hartford University of Illinois University of Maryland University of New Hampshire University of
New Haven University of Northwestern Ohio University of Pennsylvania University of the Sciences
University of the South University of Tampa University of Vermont Utah Valley State College
Virginia Tech University West Virginia University Westchester University Wingate College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Huntington Union Free School District
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