JOHN R. ROGERS H.S.
PRESENTS
“FIRST IN FAMILY”
A Celebration for Seniors….

Who are the first in their families to graduate high school and/or attend Technical/2year/4 year higher education
Each student was asked to...

► Nominate: Your most inspirational teacher/staff member that helped get you through your school years;
► Tell us “How have you overcome/persevered in a difficult time?”
Congratulations Students!

What an honor this is for you and for your family!
This is just the beginning!
Keep Learning!!
“I have faced a lot of challenges in my life. I faced challenges when I moved from my country to Turkey, and to US.” One day, here in Spokane “I was downtown, waiting for the city bus to arrive. There were two guys insulting my religion and my hijab which made me feel sad. A police officer who was nearby, he was telling them to stop or otherwise he would take them to jail. Afterwards, the police officer came to me and told me to not be sad.”

“All Muslim women wear hijab because it’s part of our religion. When people learn to be open minded and respectful towards other’s opinions and religions, then the world will be safe, and free.”

“I also had the challenge of learning a new language, English has become my third language. I know I am going to face more challenges in my life which is okay because I am going to learn from them, gain new experiences and become a better person.”
“During my senior year, I had a tragic accident. I crushed my pelvis, that led me to lose a month of school. Once I returned to school, I began to make a plan to catch up and succeed. Now, after what I went through, I am a walking, successful, graduating senior!”
At a young age, I was depended on by my parents to handle responsibilities such as translating government documents and paying bills, caring for my siblings, or working at my mom’s understaffed nail salon. I initially struggled to balance these obligations, but I’ve managed to pour effort into each while working towards becoming a first-generation college student.”
“When my father was arrested and deported to Mexico as he tried to re-new his work permit, my siblings and I were left with the throbbing of pain. This time tested the strength and faith I had in myself, I made the choice to persevere and force myself to get up for school or work the very next day, the same thing my father has always done. My parents are my heroes, they’ve sacrificed the only place they knew for a place that would set their children up for opportunity, what any good parent no matter the race or color of their skin would do...this is how I preserve, they are my motivation whenever times get tough.”
“Sometimes I don’t even know that what I’ve been doing is overcoming something and persevering through. I think I’ve just been through a point in my life where I know stuff is hard and I can’t avoid it. The only thing I can do is try to handle it carefully and as best as I can. Doing this, I know that it will come to pass but I just need to keep going until it dies down. I think just knowing I won’t be stuck in a difficult position forever is what makes me pull through and hang on til the end. Eventually it all works itself out with time and I just have to move along with it until it does.”
“I have overcome difficult times by focusing on the positive things and the people I love support me and help me do my work. They motivate me to succeed because I want to make them proud. When I’m off task or behind on something my parents remind me to do my work. If I don’t understand something, I ask my teachers.”
“Three years ago, me and my family moved here. My family moved to Spokane to find us a better life and better educational opportunity. Moving into a new country was difficult for my family—different culture, different language, different laws, and a very different climate. However, I was so happy at that time because I resigned myself to the thought that I would never be able to go back to school. Two weeks after we arrived, my dad registered me in school. Although I really liked the school and the education, the first couple of months I struggled at school because I did not speak English. Learning English as a second language was the most difficult struggle we faced when we moved here. When I first moved here, my goal was to learn English to help my family so I could translate for them. I started watching English videos and downloaded different apps on my phone. I kept practicing until I got better and overcome the struggle.”
“I have overcome my difficult times by staying positive to negative comments and feelings. I have had many difficult times in my life. It taught me to be patient. And I believe mostly my teachers helped me to overcome my difficult times.”
“I overcome my difficult time by staying positive and ignoring negative comments. I had overcome English, by asking many questions and studying a lot. I have overcome my difficult times by being patient and not giving up. I will work hard to get to my goals and helping others.”
“Life is a series of peaks and valleys. Sometimes you’re up, sometimes you’re down. Each time you endure a difficult time in your life, you build personal character and you become stronger. I’ve been through many difficult times, but I did my best to overcome them. First you have to keep in mind that you can’t control everything in life. It’s very important to stay positive during tough times. I am trying to control my reaction to the situation. I am trying to be thankful for all the hard times because it gives me life lessons. I am doing things that make me happy. Whatever you are going through, know that this too shall pass. You are not alone in your feelings and your experience. You have to be thankful for everything!”
There were many challenges I had to face growing up; whether it was learning how to speak English or struggling to understand everything about college and higher education. I was able to overcome these obstacles through the support given to me, and by working tirelessly and pushing beyond my limits.
“I overcome difficult time by working hard and keep trying because when you don’t try then you will not become successful in life. When you don’t work hard you don’t get what you want. There is always something hard to do and there is always hard time in life. Back in Uganda I had to work with people that didn’t speak my Swahili that was hard but I had to do it because I want to learn. If you want something you have to work hard.”
“I overcome difficult time by not giving up because in life there is always times of sorrow and times of happiness that is part of life. I believe that there will always be difficult time, but we can still make it because if you want something then you must work for it no matter what it is. I remember when I moved to the USA, I could not speak English, and I had to present in front of the class that was so difficult, but I had to be confident. I overcame that by believing in myself.”

Most Inspirational Teacher/Staff: Krissy Wilcox
Spokane Schools
“The independence I’ve gained from my High School experience showed me, I can overcome any obstacle that I may be unfamiliar with. Being first in my family, to go in depth with taking challenging courses and having to schedule and figure out every college form or just how to navigate and organize your time to do homework and try your best has been the most difficult. Thankyou to my supportive and amazing teachers, they always give great lessons pushing me to want to learn more and become invested in the material.”
“How I overcome in difficult times is, I think of the outcome and how it is going to affect me like, if I don’t go to school today I’m going to miss a lot of information or if I don’t repair a friendship or feud with someone I’m going to regret it and have guilt for a long time and nothing like that is worth the stress. It’s important to me to do the right thing in a situation to overcome it.”
“Yes, I have when I was a new person when I come to Spokane and how I was unfamiliar to the new language and school. But I persevered and keep working my best of all of my years from third year to this day. It was hard but worth it and it was good years of my life to be in school to meet new people and get to enjoy my school life.”

“My teacher helped me through my difficulty and my friends are there for the support in my age group and we all cheered each other to succeed and keep going.”

“I’m Thankful to the teachers and friends.”
“When figuring out how to find opportunities for my future (colleges, scholarships, internships, etc), I couldn’t rely on my parents to help guide me. Therefore, I got to know and rely on some teachers that specialize in that field, explaining the different paths I could take and documents I received.”
“I just tell myself that I can do it and I look for something to distract me and know what I need to do in life. Basically I just motivate myself. I look for inspiration and look what I have been through to get where I am or I just pray to God.”
“Kelsey Christensen has been the teacher that was always there for me to telling me everyday not to give up but to keep pushing and work hard. I look back upon times as so important in the development of the person that I am today, Mrs. Christensen had taught me discipline and dignity. Much more than English, which was what you were supposedly teaching me, you taught me that I could achieve more than what I or other people thought that I was capable of. Thank you for not giving up on me.”
“We are so glad to come to the US. When we immigrate here in Spokane 2016 from Uganda. Our first year was not easy; we couldn’t speak English, and school system was very different from where we come from. Teacher was nice and love to help us in everything that needed. For the help that I have received, I believe it is going to help me in University or College. It is a privilege to finish High School. God bless all the Rogers High School Teachers.”
“How I persevere through difficult times is thinking of the best. I believe I can be the best that I want myself to be and I can experience the greater things in life than what I would be dealing with at the time. Sometimes it’s hard to think so positively but I always find my way.”
THANK YOU LARRY & MICHELLE MORAN, Moran Education Foundation. Larry and Michelle have supported John R. Rogers High School students in many different facets through the years. But, First in Family is a program near and dear to their hearts. The Moran Education Foundation is awarding five (5) First in Family students with a $250 gift card! These gift cards are awarded to help start you off in your higher education endeavors, with some extra cash for books, school supplies, or to outfit your dorm! What a wonderful blessing for these 5 students!
Congratulations to our five $250 Gift Card Awardees!

• Tracy Ha
• Evelyn Jimenez
• Jacqueline Jimenez
• Bashar Klaib
• Kaytlyn Reno

THANK YOU MORAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION!!!
To the First in Family Graduating Class of 2020: Our heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you! What you have accomplished is amazing, and we are very proud of you; and YOU should take pride in your accomplishments as well. When you are out among hundreds of other people applying for jobs, YOU, will have a step up in the process going for you, because YOU completed high school!

We encourage you to keep going with your educational pursuits, whether it’s through attending college, or a business school, trade school, or training in any area. Each item you add to your resume, will help you move ahead.

Have courage, and never be discouraged. Life gives us a chance to start fresh every morning and to apply the lessons we’ve learned so we can begin again. Remember to thank the teachers, family members, counselors or friends who have helped you along your path. Work hard, be patient with yourself; always be kind = and pass on what you have learned, to help others needing direction.

God Bless – and CONGRATULATIONS!
Larry & Michele Moran
Working with First in Family to help graduates move ahead.
CONGRATULATIONS
FIRST IN FAMILY GRADUATES!!!