

School Board honors top grads from Black River High and Sartori Education Center

June 12, 2008 — Students from Black River High School and Sartori Education Center were recognized as Outstanding Seniors at last night's School Board meeting.

The students were introduced as an exceptionally talented and motivated group of young people who have succeed in the classroom, overcome personal and family-related difficulties, and realized the importance of education.

"These students are wonderful and amazing," said Black River principal Wendell Ellis.

Students shared that, for some, they would be the first in their family to earn a high school diploma. Some were married with children; another quickly had to become "the man of the house" when his father was twice deployed to Iraq.



Black River Outstanding seniors: Jennifer Roberts, Ashley Wafer, Juana Mora Alvarez, Jerry Donald, Sandra Manzo Baez, (not shown: Danielle Mendoza)



Sartori Education Center's Outstanding Seniors (left to right): Jessie Day, Jennifer Aguilar, Emmanuel Cedillo, Chae McCoy, Ben Ward, (not shown: Will Prindle)

Students spoke of sacrifices made by their parents and the commitment, tenacity and love shown to them by teachers and staff at Black River and Sartori.

"Because of my teachers," said one student, "I started to believe in myself, and to think, 'You can really do this!'"

"When I first got to Black River, after failing at another school" said a student, "I thought I was going to play it cool. But I was hit with so much love, I was destined to succeed."