Jocelyn Guardado Zelaya - PLC

Good afternoon, everyone,

My name is Jocelyn Guardado Zelaya, and it is truly an honor to stand here today representing the Class of 2026.

First, I want to thank God, my family, my teachers, my friends, and everyone who believed in me when I didn't fully believe in myself. Standing here today is something the younger me prayed for. There were days I felt stressed, tired, overwhelmed, and honestly ready to give up… but I kept going.

"As long as God keeps waking you up, He still has a plan for you."

Somewhere I read "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

People only see the graduation cap and the smile, but they don't always see the sacrifices, the tears, the sleepless nights, the responsibilities, and the pressure behind it all. And that's why today means so much.

For me, this is bigger than just graduating. I'm proud to say I'm becoming the first in my family to graduate high school and continue college. I want to take a moment to appreciate my mom and give her the honor she truly deserves for all her sacrifices, hard work, and unconditional love. My mom is a single mother; she was both my mom and my dad. She carried every responsibility on her shoulders and still found a way to give me strength, love, and support even

during the hardest times. Walking across this stage today. is also for her, to show her that her little girl never took those sacrifices lightly. Mom, thank you for never giving up on me, for believing in me even when life got hard, and for being the reason I kept pushing forward! (Jocelyn will say in Spanish to her mother) Mom, thank you for never giving up on me, for believing in me even when life got hard, and for being the reason I kept pushing forward

To everyone graduating today, never forget how far you've come. We made it through every difficult moment that tried to break us. Through the stress, the tears, the pressure, the sleepless nights, and the moments where we felt like giving up, we still made it here today. And that alone is something to be proud of.

Today is more than just receiving a diploma. It's proof that we kept going even when life got hard. Proof that every sacrifice, every late night, every challenge, and every obstacle was worth it. We should all take a moment to truly appreciate ourselves and everyone who helped us along the way, because none of us got here alone.

And now, we're walking into a brand-new chapter of our lives stronger, wiser, and ready for more. Some of us are continuing school, some are starting careers, and some are still figuring life out — and that's okay. No matter where life takes us after today, always remember this moment and remember that if we made it through this, we can make it through anything.

Class of 2026, this is our moment! We earned this. Be proud of yourself, celebrate yourself, and never stop believing in how far you can go!

Class of 2026, congratulations. Be proud of yourself. This is only the beginning. WE DID IT.