

El Dorado IB Program prepares students for bright future



For two years, the International Baccalaureate Program at El Dorado High School has been preparing students for a successful future. The long hours, the homework on top of regular school activities have paid off for four IB students. Not only have they completed an intensive program and are the first to graduate from the IB program, each have been admitted to an Ivy League school. El Dorado seniors Daniel Bell, Theresa Juarez, Julio Reyes and Jessica Wooten were accepted into Brown, Columbia, Cornell, and Dartmouth. They each credit the IB program and IB coordinator Lizett Shaw for helping them stand out to admission officers.

"I had Ms. Shaw as an English teacher and I really liked the way she works with students. She gets personal and helped me get where I am," said Julio Reyes who will go to Brown University and plans to go into the medical field.

"It made me go on beyond my abilities and do more work that I would have in the regular coursework. I would recommend this program to anyone, you gain a lot and it's a close community," said Wooten, who was accepted into Dartmouth, MIT and Duke.

"It's good to know that we can compete with other students in the nation," said Juarez who is a Gates Millennium and will be attending Cal Tech in the fall. "A lot of schools recognize the IB program and know that as an IB student I am able to handle the curriculum along with regular school."

"The IB program prepares you for college and introduces you to a group of unique teachers. It makes you feel like you are in college" said Bell, who will head to New York to study at Columbia University. Bell is still deciding on his major but is considering the engineering field.

El Dorado Head Counselor Marshall Ponce said in addition to the Ivy League offers, students were also admitted to Tier 1 schools such as Stanford, Rice, Wellesley, Duke, M.I.T., Boston University, Carnegie Mellon, California Institute for Technology and Penn State.

"This program encourages El Dorado students along with students from across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners," said SISD Superintendent Dr. Sylvia P. Atkinson.

The Diploma Program, which is widely recognized by the world's leading universities and geared for students aged 16 to 19, is a demanding two-year curriculum leading to final examinations and a qualification that is welcomed by leading universities around the world. The IB offers a continuum of high-quality education that encourages international-mindedness and a positive attitude to learning. The curriculum represents the best from many different countries rather than the exported national system of any one.

"What the students are learning in the IB program are the skills and abilities they will need to succeed in a changing, challenging world," said SISD Board President Charles E. Garcia.

Through the IB program students develop a community awareness and concern as well as develop a sense of responsibility. At El Dorado along with a rigorous course work, students are encouraged to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports and community service work.

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment.