

A group of 23 students representing Piper, Plantation, Nova and Western high schools recently completed the City's **Sunrise Leadership Academy** (SLA) program. They participated in seven hands-on sessions from October 2015 through April 2016, during which they learned about municipal government, community service, ethics and leadership. This evening marks the graduation of the SLA Class of 2016 and recognizes the students' unique contribution to the City of Sunrise.

Background

The Sunrise Leadership Academy (SLA) is a hands-on, real world civics program for select Sunrise high school students. SLA participants learn about the public sector through instruction, observation and experience. Team-building exercises also play a significant role in the program. City staff designs and delivers the SLA's core curriculum, while elected officials and guest speakers enhance the program with their unique perspective. The program's ultimate goal is to foster a new generation of informed, civic-minded leaders.

Students in 11th and 12th grades were selected for the SLA by their school's teachers and administrators based on the following criteria:

- Minimum grade point average of 3.2;
- Interest in government and civic leadership;
- Minimum of 10 hours of volunteer service;
- Demonstrated ability as a student leader, with active involvement in at least one extracurricular activity.

Students were also required to submit an essay to ensure their interest in and appropriateness for the program.

Presentation of Certificates of Merit to the Sunrise Leadership Academy (SLA) Class of 2016:

- Yasmeen Abdulrazzak – Western High School
- Coral Akagbosu – Nova High School
- Larissa Angrisano – Plantation High School
- Alejandro Astudillo – Piper High School
- Emily Astudillo – Piper High School
- Mackenzie Behm – Plantation High School
- Nina Carrasquillo – Nova High School
- Brian Charlot – Piper High School
- Destiny Ferguson – Plantation High School
- Talya Frost – Western High School
- Angela Gonzalez – Piper High School
- Maha Kahn – Piper High School
- Alexandria Mattix – Piper High School
- Kaitlyn Maynard – Piper High School
- Yonatan Noiman – Nova High School
- Ryan Poblete – Piper High School
- Alexa Redmond – Piper High School
- Karly Reid – Western High School
- Cassandra Reyes – Piper High School

- Beatriz Segovia – Western High School
- Aleeke Spence – Plantation High School
- Ashley Tran – Western High School
- Luis Villacis – Piper High School

Over the course of the program, the SLA students were partnered with members of the Sunrise Senior Center for a “Cyber-Seniors” service learning project. The students served as tech tutors, offering hands-on help with a range of electronic devices – from smartphones to laptops – and helped the seniors gain a foothold in the world of social media.

This evening marks the graduation of the SLA Class of 2016 and recognizes their unique contribution to Sunrise. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge their “Cyber-Seniors” partners:

- Mrs. Gloria Armstrong
- Mr. Eugene Berthiaume
- Mrs. Maria Berthiaume
- Mrs. Gloria Canner
- Mrs. Lynn Coughlin
- Mrs. Elaine Dube
- Mrs. Gloria Flemming
- Mr. Richard Flemming
- Ms. Marion Harris
- Mr. Peter Makowski
- Mrs. Dora Repreza
- Mrs. Evelyn Rodriguez
- Mrs. Louise Schriener
- Mrs. Natalie Solomon
- Mrs. Geraldine Thomas
- Mrs. Sheryl Tufts
- Mrs. Ione Turpin
- Mrs. Betsy Winters