

2016 VALEDICTORIANS & SALUTATORIANS



Landy Alvarez, Sadiq Baker

ROCKDALE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Sadiq Baker

College/University: University of Georgia

Potential Major: Exercise/sports science and athletic training

Career of Interest: Physical Therapy

Extracurriculars: Basketball, Volleyball (State Champions), Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta **Awards/Scholarships:** Zell Miller, Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top 10) since

10th grade

RCPS Schools Attended: C.J. Hicks Elementary, Conyers Middle

When He Heard: He was surprised; he was asleep and woken up by his family

Salutatorian - Landy Alvarez

College/University: Georgia Gwinnett College **Potential Major:** Biology/Biochemistry

Career of Interest: Neurologist

Extracurriculars: National Honor Society, Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Latino Student Union, Interact Club, Work Based Learning at Rockdale Medical Center and Dr. Kas-

sam's OB/GYN office,

Awards/Scholarships: Kimberley Chance Atkins Scholarship, Lew Belcher Scholarship, Univision Liga de Campeones Scholarship, Superintendent's Scholarship, Superinten-

dent's Academic Scholar (top 10) since 10th grade

RCPS Schools Attended: J.H House Elementary, Edwards Middle, Conyers Middle **When She Heard:** She was excited and satisfied, after working hard for four years.



Steven Bishop, Fathma Abdulkhader

HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Steven Bishop

College/University: University of Georgia **Potential Major:** Biology (pre-med)

Career of Interest: Doctor

Extracurriculars: Varsity Soccer, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top

10) since 10th grade, Rockdale Young Life

Awards/Scholarships: Charter Scholar, Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top 10) since 10th grade **RCPS Schools Attended:** Barksdale Elementary, Davis

Middle

When He Heard: He was in his kitchen, shaking, holding on to the phone

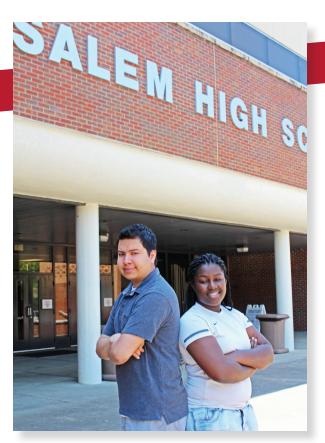
Salutatorian - Fathma Abdulkhader

College/University: University of Georgia Potential Major: Biology, neuroscience Career of Interest: Neurologist

Extracurriculars: National Honor Society, Beta Club, Fun Club (serving special needs students), Rockdale Young Life **Awards/Scholarships:** Charter Scholar, DAR American History award, Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top 10)

since 10th grade

When She Heard: She started crying; she was driving and her mom (HHS math teacher Safna Kalariparambil) called to tell her.



Ferre-Ghian Trujillo, Leilani Smith

SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Leilani Smith

College/University: Georgia State University **Potential Major:** Exercise Science, Psychology

Career of Interest: Physical Therapy

Extracurriculars: Basketball, Tennis, Track, Golf, Team Manager

Football and Boys Basketball

Awards/Scholarships: Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top

10) since 11th grade

Inspiriational Experience: A rotator cuff injury during a basket-ball game sophomore year sparked Leilani's interest in physical

therapy

Salutatorian - Ferre-Ghian Trujillo

College/University: Undecided **Potential Major:** Computer Science

Career of Interest: Programming/Video Game Design **Extracurriculars:** East Atlanta Technology Fair

Awards/Scholarships: Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top

10) since 10th grade

When He Heard: He did not realize what it meant to be one of the top ranked students or what valedictorian and salutatorian meant until his family received a call notifying him he was saluta-

torian



Julia Long, Molly Niemczyk

ROCKDALE MAGNET SCHOOL

Valedictorian - Molly Niemczyk

College/University: Georgia Tech

Potential Major: Business Admnistration, Computer

Science

Career of Interest: Marketing Manager

Extracurriculars: Debate Team, Peer Mentor, Math Team, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Theater **Awards/Scholarships:** Rotary STAR Student for RMSST (top SAT score), ISEF participant, BioGENEius national finalist, Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top 10) since

10th grade

RCPS Schools Attended: Barksdale Elementary, Davis

Middle

Salutatorian - Julia Long

College/University: Duke University
Potential Major: Computer Science, Math
Career of Interest: Doctor/Oncologist

Extracurriculars: Marching Band Color Guard, Mu Alpha Theta, Interact Club. Math Team, French Club **Awards/Scholarships:** Superintendent's Academic Scholar (top 10) since 11th grade, 1st place in Rock-

dale Regional Science Fair

RCPS Schools Attended: Peek's Chapel Elementary, Eastminster School, Davis Middle

Enriched Learning: She moved back to Rockdale to attend RMSST after going to school in Oklahoma

sophomore year where the emphasis was on sports/extracurriculars more than academics