

Press Clippings 5/6/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

U-46, D300 return to in-person graduation ceremonies without COVID restrictions at NOW Arena --- 5/6/2022

By Mike Danahey



District U-46 and Community Unit District 300 are returning to the tradition of holding high school graduation ceremonies without COVID-19 restrictions at the NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates. (Karie Angell Luc / Pioneer Press)

High school graduation ceremonies for **District U-46** and Community Unit District 300 will return to the NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates in late May without COVID-19 restrictions.

U-46 ceremonies will be held all day Saturday, May 28, starting with Streamwood High School at 8 a.m. and followed by South Elgin at 11 a.m., Elgin at 2 p.m., Bartlett at 5 p.m. and Larkin at 8 p.m.

District 300 graduations will take place on Saturday, May 21, with Hampshire High School starting at 10 a.m., Jacobs High School at 2 p.m. and Dundee-Crown High School at 6 p.m.

U-46 held its graduation ceremonies online in 2020 and in person at the Hoffman Estates venue in 2021, but with restrictions like social distancing, mandatory mask usage, assigned seating and a limited number of tickets issued because of the COVID pandemic.

They also set up large screens outside so others could watch the ceremonies remotely.

This year, neither district is requiring masks and no tickets will be required for the 11,000-seat arena. Families or groups can rent hospitality suites for up to 15 people for \$300 on the upper level and \$450 on the lower level.

For more information, go to www.u-46.org/domain/11644, www.d300.org/graduation or www.nowarena.com/events.

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Elgin News Digest --- 5/6/2022

By Mike Danahey

U-46 announces Superintendent's Scholarship winners

District U-46's Superintendent's Scholarship winners have been announced.

Seven of the recipients — Johnnie Grayson, Jenny Nguyen and Jesus Vargas from Elgin High School; Daniel Plewa from South Elgin High School; Nina Istomina from Bartlett High School; Mckenzie Gonzalez from Streamwood High School; and Shelsy Estrada from Larkin High School — were featured in a video the district posted on YouTube.

Also receiving scholarships are Martha Alba-Raza, Samantha Elizalde, Alexandra Godinez Lopez, Daniela Lopez, Vanessa Mancera, Jasmin Perez and Aileen Vilchez from Elgin High School; Giselle Aguilera, Alberto Bonilla, Crystal George and Julissa Navarro from Larkin High School; Roxanna Ojeda from Bartlett High School; and Jeslyn White from Streamwood High School. Their photos appear at the end of the video.

Each of the 20 recipients receives a \$1,000 scholarship to apply toward their post secondary education.

To see the video, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcahM1x5wyE.

Elgin teen named Hanover Youth Volunteer of Year

Elgin resident Jacqueline Meza has been named Hanover Township Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Meza, 16, is a junior at **Streamwood High School** and was honored April 30 at the Supervisor's 2022 Community Service Awards ceremony at the Hanover Township Senior Center.

Robert Jerry Simandl Sr., of Hoffman Estates, was presented with the Mary Ellen "Mel" Runzel Volunteer Service Award for his 10 years as a volunteer officer with the Hanover Township Emergency Services Unit.

U-46 paying \$144,000 for teacher classes at NIU

School District U-46 will pay Northern Illinois University up to \$144,000 to provide six graduate-level courses for 30 educators to receive an endorsement required by the state to teach dual language programs.

The school approved the expenditure, which will be funded with federal grant money.

U-46 officials said the district's English Language Learners Program serves more than 13,000 students. As the program continues to expand, demand for appropriately licensed and endorsed staff continues to rise, officials said.

By paying for the classes, the district will increase the number of teachers who have the state-required endorsement and will successfully fill vacant positions within its English Language Learners/Dual Language Program.

The \$144,000 is about \$800 per course per pupil or about \$267 per credit hour, significantly less than NIU's current \$496 per credit hour for such classes, officials said.

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Elgin News Digest --- 5/5/2022

By Mike Danahey

U-46 to buy four new diesel engine school buses

School District U-46 is set to trade in four smaller school buses for new diesel-fueled models.

The new buses are being purchased from Midwest Transit Inc. of Lombard. With a \$3,500 trade-in, the cost for each is \$119,497 or \$474,488 total.

Each bus holds up to 47 passengers and are used to transport special needs and pre-K students. The buses being traded in were purchased in 2014 and have been driven more than 137,000 miles.

According to information from the district, most major bus manufacturers are moving away from gasoline-powered engines. Electric buses are three to four times more expensive than combustion engine vehicles, officials said.