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Press Release
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100% of Hiawatha Academies' first graduating class admitted to college

Minneapolis, MN Hiawatha Academies announced this week that 100 percent of the Class of 2019 have been admitted to college. This is Hiawatha Collegiate High School's first graduating class of seniors.

100 percent college admission is remarkable in Minnesota, a state with one of the nation's lowest high school graduation rates for students of color. Hiawatha Academies aims to ensure access to college as a path to eliminate educational disparities between students of color and their white peers.

"We believe all students are capable of achieving at the highest levels," said Collette Owens, Hiawatha Academies executive director. "Our senior class is filled with passionate leaders and dedicated trailblazers who continue to prove what is possible for all scholars at Hiawatha and throughout Minneapolis."

Among Hiawatha Academies students, 99% identify as students of color. Nearly all will be the first in their family to attend college. "Being accepted into college is a really big step in my life," says Kamren Anderson, a senior at Hiawatha Collegiate High School. "I used to think that I wasn't smart enough to go to college or like I would never go to college. Over the years I've matured and tell myself that I can do it and not give up."

Over half of Hiawatha Collegiate High School's senior class have been admitted to 3 or more colleges. "All students should have choice for their future," said Nicole Cooley, principal at Hiawatha Collegiate High School. "At Hiawatha Academies, we are committed to ensuring the doors to college are open for all students, regardless of race or income."

Growing Learners. Growing Leaders.

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