
Congratulations to the Off Campus Classroom Program graduates



From left: Tom Flaherty, special education teacher; Alexandrino Rivera; Zaria Hayes; Raekwon Wells; and Doe Haywood, volunteer program coordinator.

The Off Campus Classroom Program, better known as the OCC Program, celebrated its 18th graduation on Friday, June 8 at Parrish Hall in New Haven. Fifteen students received their high school diploma. Three of those students participated in the program at the Yale New Haven Hospital Saint Raphael campus site. The following volunteers obtained their high school diploma:

- **Zaria Hayes** has been in the program for the past three years and volunteered in Pharmacy. While in the program she participated in the 2016 Connecticut Youth Leadership Program at the University of Connecticut. She graduated from the YNH Pharmacy Tech Program in 2017. She also received a perfect attendance certificate for this school year.
- **Alexandrino Rivera** has been in the program for the past three years and volunteered in Environmental Services. He was a recipient of the New Haven Promise and was recently accepted to Gateway Community College. In addition he received a perfect attendance certificate this year and was recently interviewed for a position at Yale New Haven Hospital in Environmental Services.
- **Raekwon Wells** has been in the program for the past two years and volunteered in Material Services and Pharmacy. He recently participated in the Special Olympic Summer Games at Southern Connecticut State University where he won three medals in track and field. He maintained a record of perfect attendance during his entire two years of the program and was awarded another certificate this year.

The following students were awarded Perfect Attendance Certificates: Marvin Shaw and Nijee Parson. Marvin

and Marquest Grant were both chosen to participate in the 2018 Youth Leadership Program at the University of Connecticut in July.

The OCC Program was launched in 2004 and is a New Haven Public School Work Experience Program for intellectually disabled high school students between the ages of 18 - 21. Students attend school at the YNH Saint Raphael Campus through the academic year (September-June) and participate in classroom studies and job skills training. Managed through the Volunteer Services department and supervised daily by an on-site special education teacher (Thomas Flaherty) and para-professional (Charisma Phillips), the students are matched with an employee who serves as their mentor and work site supervisor. Thanks, Tom and Charisma!

Hats off to everyone for another successful year!

PAVE graduation

It was a very proud graduation day at Yale New Haven Hospital on Wednesday, June 20 for six students from Chapel Haven, a nationally renowned school for adults on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. The students were the sixth graduating class from PAVE, a job readiness program that involves the students volunteering in various YNH departments such as Pharmacy, Mail Room, Material Services, Labs and the Day Care Center. Over the course of the year students had the opportunity to learn different skills in two departments or expand their work tasks in one assignment area. During this time, this very committed group of volunteers contributed close to 3,000 hours of service to the hospital.



Back, from left: Kimberly Freeman, PAVE teacher; Emily Soss; Justin Knoth; Elizabeth Mainieri; and Suzanne Snowden, PAVE teacher. Front, from left: Evan Chase, Bethany Virshup, and Heather Stuermer