The 2019 Graduation Banquet was held to honor 34 higher education graduates. The dinner and ceremony took place at the Hibulb Cultural Center on Monday, May 20th.

The festivities began shortly before 5 pm with photos of the Graduates and their families and friends. Around 5:30 pm, we had the prayer. The buffet meal was provided by Famous Dave’s Restaurant. In addition, salmon and crab was provided for the guests.

The Hibulb Cultural Center was a warm and fitting setting for the Banquet. The ceremony itself was held in the longhouse portion of the Museum. The space was packed with family and friends enjoying themselves while graduates basked in the heightened feelings of a “job Well done”.

The keynote speaker, Gyasi Ross is a Blackfeet author, attorney, rapper, speaker and storyteller who writes regularly for the Huffington Post, Gawker and Indian Country Today. A dynamic speaker, Gyasi has opened for national acts, performed at the L. A. County Summer Concert Series blending hip-hop lyrics and R&B/Soul vocals with acoustic guitar. Gyasi gave an inspirational and dynamic talk for the graduates. He spoke about his struggles as an undergraduate, eventually going on to law school and a very successful career. The main take away was that it is not easy but persistence and determination are the key.

Brittany Crolley & Antonia Ramos, the student speakers, both gave exceptionally moving talks about their struggles and triumphs on their journey to their educational goal.

Valda Gobin, Dawn Simpson, Margarita Huston, Norma Comenote and Jeanne Steffener were honored for all their work with students through the years.

Seeing so many young people poised to begin their new life’s journey was inspiring in itself. Festivities concluded at 9 pm.
Transferring from Community College to University?

Students attend a community college for a variety of reasons. One of the top reasons is to prepare themselves to attend and earn a bachelor’s degree from a 4-year college or university.

The transferring process from a community college to a 4-year institution can be fairly easy, if you make a plan and are willing to put the effort and work in to achieve your goal.

With a goal, making a plan to achieve that goal becomes easier. Having a plan will keep you on track, making sure you do the right things at the right time.

You will want to define your educational goals which includes deciding on what type of degree you want to eventually get and the career you want to go into. You want to make sure that everything you do at the community college level is in line with your goal to get accepted at a college/university.

Talk to your community college advisor. Tell him your plan to transfer to a college/university. By doing this, your advisor will be able to advise you on your course selection and making sure you are sticking to your plan to transfer.

Now that the transfer plan is solidified, collect as much information as you can about the transfer process and the university’s requirements for admission.

Your community college most likely has an articulation agreement which spells out in detail the courses and credits that will be accepted by universities including the GPA (grade point average) needed to gain acceptance. You can obtain this information from your community college advisor.

You can also reach out to the college or university admissions or transfer advisor for this information. Now you can plan on taking the courses you know will be transferrable. Higher education institutions tend to accept credits from programs and courses that are similar to the courses they offer. When you transfer, you will transfer into the college/university as a junior.

The school you transfer to may have scholarships available for transfer students. Make sure you ask the admissions counselor about the scholarships that they offer. Communicate with your community college advisor to learn about graduation deadlines and requirements. Fill out the FAFSA to qualify for FREE financial aid which will be applied to your tuition and there may be funds left for books and living expenses.

The grades received in your courses really do matter. Students applying for admission to college/university must meet the minimum grade requirements in each of their courses before their credits will be considered for transfer.

Transfer policies can change from year to year, check for small-print details that can be easily missed. Use your community college advisor as a resource to help guide you through the transfer process.

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“Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.” Jim Rohn