



The Right Place

Andre Gonzalez, New America School Class of 2018



Andre Gonzalez will begin his postsecondary studies immediately following his graduation from the NAS-Lakewood. This June he plans to enroll in the Colorado State University as a Bridge Scholar, and in so doing take the first step in his journey towards becoming an immigration attorney. He's chosen to pursue this career so that he can help the many people who feel voiceless in their community. Andre writes, "I feel passionate about helping people who are trying to make it in America—the land of the free."

"I don't want to see families torn apart," he continues. "I want to unite families and make them happy. My vision as I face the future is to create a society where people embrace each other's differences."

NAS-Lakewood's dean, Chloe Zagar, describes how the type of person Andre is will enable him to achieve this lofty goal. "When he decides he wants to accomplish something and when he is fueled by his passion, Andre will not only conquer his goal, but will surpass everyone's expectations."

For example, when Andre first enrolled in art class at NAS, though he was creative, he lacked some of the fundamentals. Rather than be deterred, Andre helped create and promote the school's art club so that he could stay after school to work on his craft, and was eventually twice voted the school's "Most Artistic" student. Again, prior to joining the boys' basketball team during his first year at NAS, Andre had never before touched a basketball. Yet he was willing to invest his time and work hard to become better at the sport. His final season, Andre was presented with the Sportsmanship Award by his coach.

Thus coach James Berezniak concludes, "As Andre moves on to the next chapter of his life, what will undoubtedly lead to his success is his willingness to learn and improve himself, all while being a good person."