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LTUSD PRESS RELEASE

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In an extraordinary demonstration of community collaboration, South Lake Tahoe will honor the 2020 South Tahoe High School and Mt. Tallac graduates in a unique drive-thru commencement ceremony at Sierra-at-Tahoe on June 19, 2020. Lake Tahoe Unified School District and Sierra are pleased to announce a Tahoe Ski Lift Drive-Thru Graduation.

#### **A Symbolic Ride and Majestic View**

- Our graduates will individually ride a ski lift symbolizing the trust of our community and their solitary journey into adulthood. Our graduates will take this ride on the mountain knowing that family can watch from close by and celebrate with them.
- The short trip on the Easy Rider ski lift will end via a special ramp built in collaboration with Tom Castles, the STHS construction teacher, and the staff at Sierra.
- Students will walk towards a majestic view of Pyramid Peak at the ceremony site for photographs with our Superintendent Dr. Tarwater, School Administration, and the Board of Education.
- Families will remain in the car, within view of their graduate.

When Superintendent, Jim Tarwater, approached Sierra-at-Tahoe's General Manager, John Rice, with the ski-lift graduation idea, John was all in, going straight to work on the planning process. The project has been in the works for several weeks while logistics were being worked out - both organizations are thrilled to see it come together.

"We are ever grateful for the generosity of Sierra-at-Tahoe and the fact that many of our students learned to ski, thrive, and adventure on their slopes," said South Tahoe High School Principal Carline Sinkler. Since 1999, countless students have enjoyed free season passes for academic achievement, a program started by John Rice to motivate students to get straight As. "We deeply appreciate our long-time partnership with Sierra-at-Tahoe," said Dr. Tarwater.



Panoramic view from the "podium" which will be embellished for the ceremony.

Lending to the success of this "drive-thru with a twist" was the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Tarwater, Principal Carline Sinkler, and Assistant Principals Pat Harnett and Justin Zunino, for providing ongoing communication to families and logistical support to Sierra-at-Tahoe. "We are proud and grateful for the patience of our seniors and their families as we have endeavored to make 2020 a graduation to remember," stated Sinkler. As an extra reward, South Tahoe High School Sober Grad Night task Force and the City of South Lake Tahoe are delighted to provide each graduate with a keepsake gift bag stuffed with wonderful surprises.

This wouldn't have been possible without the creativity and enthusiasm of many other community partners involved in this project. In addition to the amazing management team at Sierra-at-Tahoe, LTUSD wishes to thank Lake Tahoe Television, KRLT radio station and sponsors, STHS Boosters, Sober Grad Night Task Force, Barton Foundation, City of South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe Sand & Gravel, Inc., Tahoe Asphalt, Inc., Meeks Lumber, CA-OSHA Tramway Unit, United States Forest Service, El Dorado County Environmental Health Management, Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Patrol, Lake Valley Fire, California Highway Patrol, and El Dorado County Sheriff, for making the 2020 graduation an exciting and memorable day for the Senior Class of South Lake Tahoe!

<b>Virtual Commencement Broadcast June 18th Lake Tahoe TV and STHS VTV</b>	<b>Class of 2020: Tahoe Ski Lift Drive-Thru Graduation June 19th</b>
<b>South Tahoe High School: June 18th at 6 pm</b>	<b>South Tahoe High School Drive-Thru begins at 5 pm on June 19th.</b> Listen to Virtual Commencement on KRLT 93.9 4 pm - 6 pm
<b>Mt. Tallac High School: June 18th at 7 pm</b>	<b>Mt. Tallac Drive-Thru begins at 3 pm on June 19th.</b> Listen to Virtual Commencement on KRLT 93.9 2 pm - 3 pm

To view the events:

- Use this link to subscribe to South Tahoe High School Viking Television (VTV) [STHS VTV - YouTube](#) OR, Watch on Lake Tahoe TV. Thank you LTTV!
- KRLT 93.9 and KOWL 1490 will be broadcasting audio versions of the Virtual Commencements on June 19th Mt. Tallac 2-3 pm; STHS 4-6 pm. Please contact [bryan@krltfm.com](mailto:bryan@krltfm.com) if you would like to help sponsor the radio broadcast.

**\* About Sierra-at-Tahoe**

**Play is the name of the game at Sierra-at-Tahoe, where 2,000 acres and 2,212 vertical feet of skiable terrain offer skiers and riders the freedom to explore their style at any level. Whether it's sending big mountain terrain via the Huckleberry Canyon Gates, carving down sun bathed groomers in West Bowl, learning a new trick in the Sierra Playgrounds or the exhilaration of making one's first turns on Sierra's Sculpted Learning Terrain, there is a place for you here that's just waiting to be found. Welcome to Sierra, #WherePlayReignsFree.**

