

## PRESS RELEASE



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### Real Graduation Ceremony for Virtual Students *Dr. Steve Perry Challenges Provost Graduates to Live Extraordinary Lives*



*Provost Academy graduates preparing for the start of the commencement exercises.*

June 18, 2015 [Atlanta, GA] –The auditorium of Agnes Scott College’s Presser Hall was filled with students dressed in green robes, smiles, tears and cheers during Provost Academy Georgia’s commencement exercises on Saturday, June 13.

Approximately 155 students graduated from PAGA and nearly 60 of those students traveled from across the state to participate in the ceremony.

Although many of the graduates attend virtual classes they enjoyed the pomp and circumstance associated with a traditional commencement ceremony; complete with cheers from family and friends, an inspirational speaker, an honors recognition ceremony, and even a reception.

PAGA is a tuition-free, statewide public charter high school district which is comprised of both a virtual learning program and blended learning centers. For some of PAGA’s virtual students, Saturday was their first time seeing their fellow classmates, teachers, and administrators.

“I choose Provost because I didn’t really fit in at my public school, I decided to find an alternative route,” said PAGA graduate Kathryn Davis. “My two years at Provost were some of the best years I had in high school, and I think choosing Provost was the best choice I could have made for myself.”

Leading national education expert, CNN and MSNBC educational contributor, columnist and author Dr. Steve Perry was the keynote speaker for the charter high school’s annual commencement exercises. Dr. Perry gained national recognition after being spotlighted on CNN’s critically acclaimed series *Black in America*. Perry is the founder and principal of one of the nation’s top schools, according to *U.S. News and World Report*. Capital Preparatory Magnet,

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*PAGA Board Member Robert Brown, Dr. Steve Perry; keynote speaker and Dr. Monica Henson; PAGA Superintendent & CEO look on as the graduates march in.*

located in Hartford, Connecticut, boasts a 100% graduation and matriculation rates for the predominantly low-income and minority student population.

During his commencement address, Dr. Perry challenged the members of the Class of 2015. "Be more than they've ever been, be extraordinary and to live above your circumstances," said Perry

"Throughout the year, the teachers and our virtual students work hard to achieve academic success," said PAGA Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Henson. "Graduation marks the start of new opportunities and adventures. We're proud to know that PAGA played a role in helping our students achieve such a major milestone in their lives."

To find out more information on PAGA and its programs visit: [ga.provostacademy.com](http://ga.provostacademy.com), [www.GradGeorgia.com](http://www.GradGeorgia.com), or call 844-776-8678.

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