

# Valedictorian and salutatorian named for the 2019 USU Eastern graduating class

04/22/2019



Valedictorian - Benjamin Warnick



Salutatorian - Rhiannon Bradley



Val J.

Halamandaris Caring Award - Madison Meyers



Student Body

President - Alex Anderson

A student planning to major in welding engineering and another in speech and language pathology are the top graduates for Utah State University Eastern's class in 2019.

Serving as valedictorian is Benjamin Warnick from Spanish Fork, Utah, who graduated from Maple Mountain High School in 2017.

At USU Eastern he studied welding technology and will graduate with associate degrees in science and applied science. He plans to attend Weber State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in welding engineering and

graduate school for welding engineering at Ohio State University or Metallurgical Engineering at Colorado School of Mines.

Beginning in high school, Warnick competed in SkillsUSA's National Welding Fabrication contest, earning a bronze medal in 2016 and a gold medal in both 2017 and 2018. He and his teammates are preparing for the 2019 welding fabrication state and national competitions and hope to earn an unprecedented third national championship.

In his free time he enjoys mountain biking, dirt biking, and skiing. He is employed at Alloyed Solutions and is responsible for the full welding and assembly of aircraft ground support equipment.

The salutatorian is Rhiannon Bradley, a graduate of Carbon High School. After graduating from Utah State University, she hopes to work as a speech-language pathologist.

Bradley works at Castle Heights Elementary where she "absolutely loves working with the children." In her time at USU Eastern, she enjoyed participating in the theater and music departments and was a cast member in "Guys and Dolls" and "Little Shop of Horrors," plus sang with the choir.

Besides studying for her classes, she likes playing board games (especially beating her dad at cribbage), reading, singing, watching movies, and, of course, eating popcorn.

The final speaker is Alexandria Anderson, USU Eastern student body president, and the daughter of Brenda and the late Vance Anderson.

Originally from the Bronx, New York, she moved to Utah where she graduated from Taylorsville High School. She is working on her bachelor's degree in social work and plans to graduate in 2020.

Anderson served on the Eastern Utah Student Association for the last four years holding multiple positions. She played a major role on campus in the development of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, Diversity Programming and Conference, Miss USU Eastern, the Nexus Student Lounge and community involvement, to name a few.

She loves USU Eastern and is thankful for the opportunities provided to her. She aspires to work in the foster care system and politics.

The Val Halamandaris Award is being presented to Maddy Meyers from Saratoga Springs, Utah, and a graduate of Westlake High School.

She served as the Serving Utah Network (SUN) president and always was involved with service including volunteering at homeless shelters, doing projects like pulling neighbors weeds and tying blankets for hospitals. She hopes to become a travel agent and travel the world doing humanitarian work.