

LEE HIGH ACRES

Saturday, June 5, 2010

Lee Alternative Charter Graduates 40

By: Mae Yousif-Bashi

Lee Alternative Charter High's graduating class, all dressed in green caps and gowns, were greeted by friends and family as they made their way into the Lehigh Senior High School auditorium. Motivational speaker David Essel took the stage after keynote speaker Isaac Brundage, the director of FGCU's community outreach program.

Essel encouraged students to embrace adversity and change into their lives. Eleven students were honored with Do the Right Thing awards by the Lee County Sheriff's Office for being role models for their school.

Graduate Ashley Gonzalez-Vega was recognized on stage for enlisting in the U.S. Army as a medic. After serving five years, Gonzalez-Vega will receive \$72,985 to use at the school of her choice

"We are all given paths to follow; some are more scary and different than others. We also have the ability to create our own paths. ... Keep following your path and the goals you make will never be out of your reach."

— Sarah Mae Weichold,
class valedictorian



Josie Martelus, 19, gets a hug from her father Montefort Martelus after celebrating her graduation from Lee Alternative Charter High School Friday night 6/4/10 at a commencement ceremony conducted at Lehigh Senior High School in Lehigh Acres. Martelus will be attending the University of South Florida next year. 2010 graduates of Lee Alternative Charter High School celebrate by throwing their hats in the air Friday night, June 4, 2010 at the end of a commencement ceremony conducted at Lehigh Senior High School in Lehigh Acres.

"Today, you are all here proving those who doubted you wrong. ... You have made it this far, don't stop now. ... Pursue your dreams no matter what obstacles you encounter."

— Kiara Patricia Suarez,
salutatorian

