

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ABC7's Spencer Christian and Preschool Graduates Celebrate!



SAN FRANCISCO, CA (August 3, 2018) — On August 3, 2018, 59 preschoolers in tiny purple graduation gowns and slippery mortarboards reached a milestone on their educational path at Felton's Cradle to College Preschool Graduation. This is the second year that the Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Division has held the jubilant ceremony at San Francisco State University. Enjoy highlights by [clicking here](#).

As guest speaker, ABC7's weather forecaster Spencer Christian was able to predict sunny skies for both the day and future of the young students preparing for kindergarten. "Dream big dreams and imagine what you might be able to do with your lives . . . and don't let anyone discourage you. All things are possible when you believe in your dreams. I'm an example of that and you're all examples of that right now." An award-winning broadcaster and author, Spencer Christian worked for ABC's Good Morning America from 1986-1998 before joining ABC-owned KGO-TV (ABC7) in San Francisco, California.

When asked about memorable moments at the graduation, Jennifer Curran, Program Director of the Mimi and Peter Haas Fund said, "It's inspiring to see the children and families onstage in the higher education setting continuing on in their education . . . This is just the start to a wonderful [and] enriching life, and I'm just so happy to be here."

The Mimi and Peter Haas Fund has supported Early Care and Education in San Francisco for over 25 years. Felton's Family Developmental Center is a member of the Haas Model Initiative, a model that the foundation supports in San Francisco by providing a deep level of resources and financial support to certain preschool agencies in the city.

Yohana Quiroz, Felton's Chief Operations Officer of the CYF Division and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Services, thanked San Francisco State's Miriam Bright Institute for hosting Cradle to College and directed the processional before introducing Al Gilbert, Felton President and CEO. In his greeting, Al thanked the parents for allowing Felton to play a role in each child's success story, adding, "We've created a lot of innovative programs and services specifically with the intention of making your family stronger, increasing your resources, and supporting the achievements of your young people."

Felton Institute was founded in 1889 with the mandate that children and families in crisis must have access to social services and resources in order to help them build upon their inherent strengths and develop self-sufficiency. Our name honors executive director Dr. Katharine "Kitty" Felton whose innovation at the turn of the 20th century greatly expanded social services throughout San Francisco and garnered national acclaim. For more than 129 years, Felton Institute has been a leader in innovative mental health and social service programs for all.

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